Anna Ulyanova

THE CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL YEARS OF VLADIMIR ULYANOV

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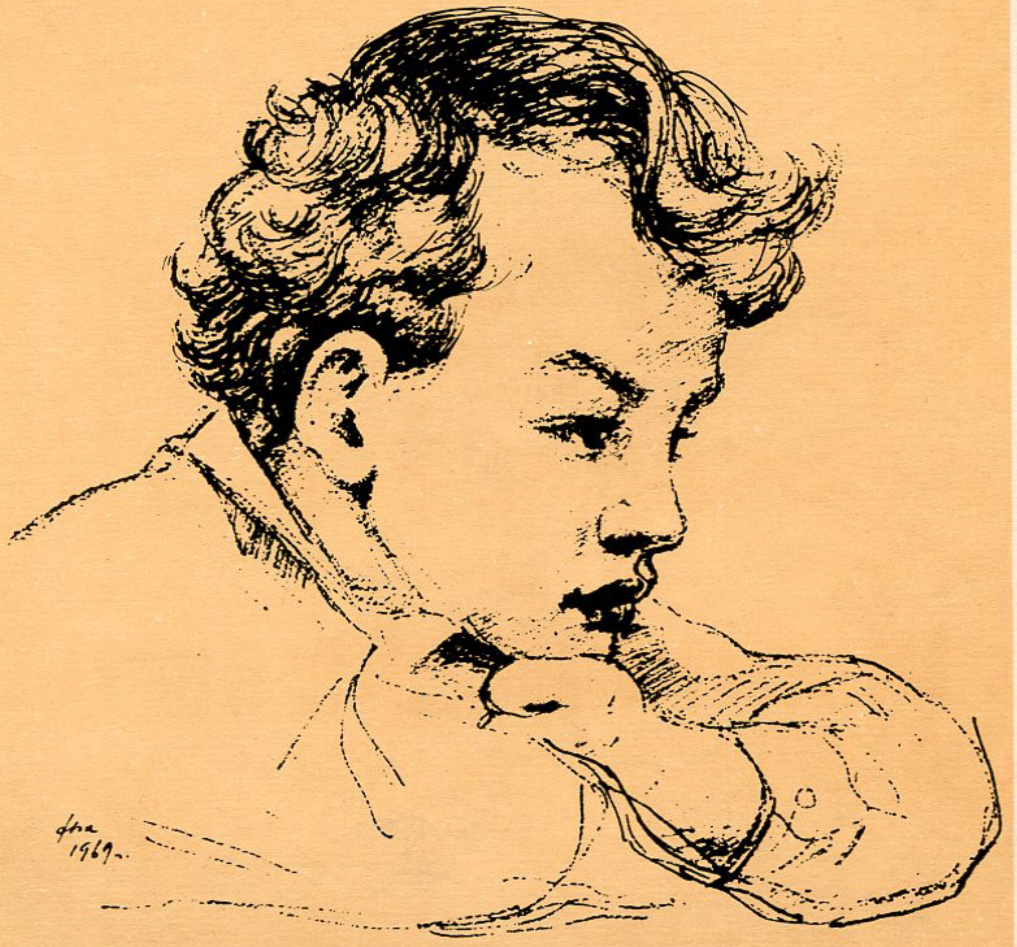

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AND
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VLADIMIR ULYANOV

Chapter 1

Vladimir Ulyanov (better known as Lenin) was born on April 10, 1870 (22nd New Calendar) in the town of Simbirsk on the Volga. Simbirsk was later renamed Ulyanovsk in his honour.

Vladimir's father, Ilya, was then the inspector of all state schools in the Simbirsk province. Ilya came from an ordinary family. His father died early, and Ilya's older brother paid for him to be educated. After university Ilya worked as a schoolmaster first in Penza and then in Nizhny Novgorod. His pupils liked him very much, for he never punished them or reported their misbehaviour to the headmaster. Besides, he was a patient and considerate teacher whose lessons were clear and easy to understand. He was always ready to

Simbirsk (now Ulyanovsk) in the 1870s.

give free lessons on Sundays to those who needed them. That was why his former pupils always remembered him with great warmth and gratitude. While living in Simbirsk he did a great deal to organise free schools for children from poor families, mainly the village children. This work took much of his time and strength, for he had to travel a lot throughout the province in all weathers.

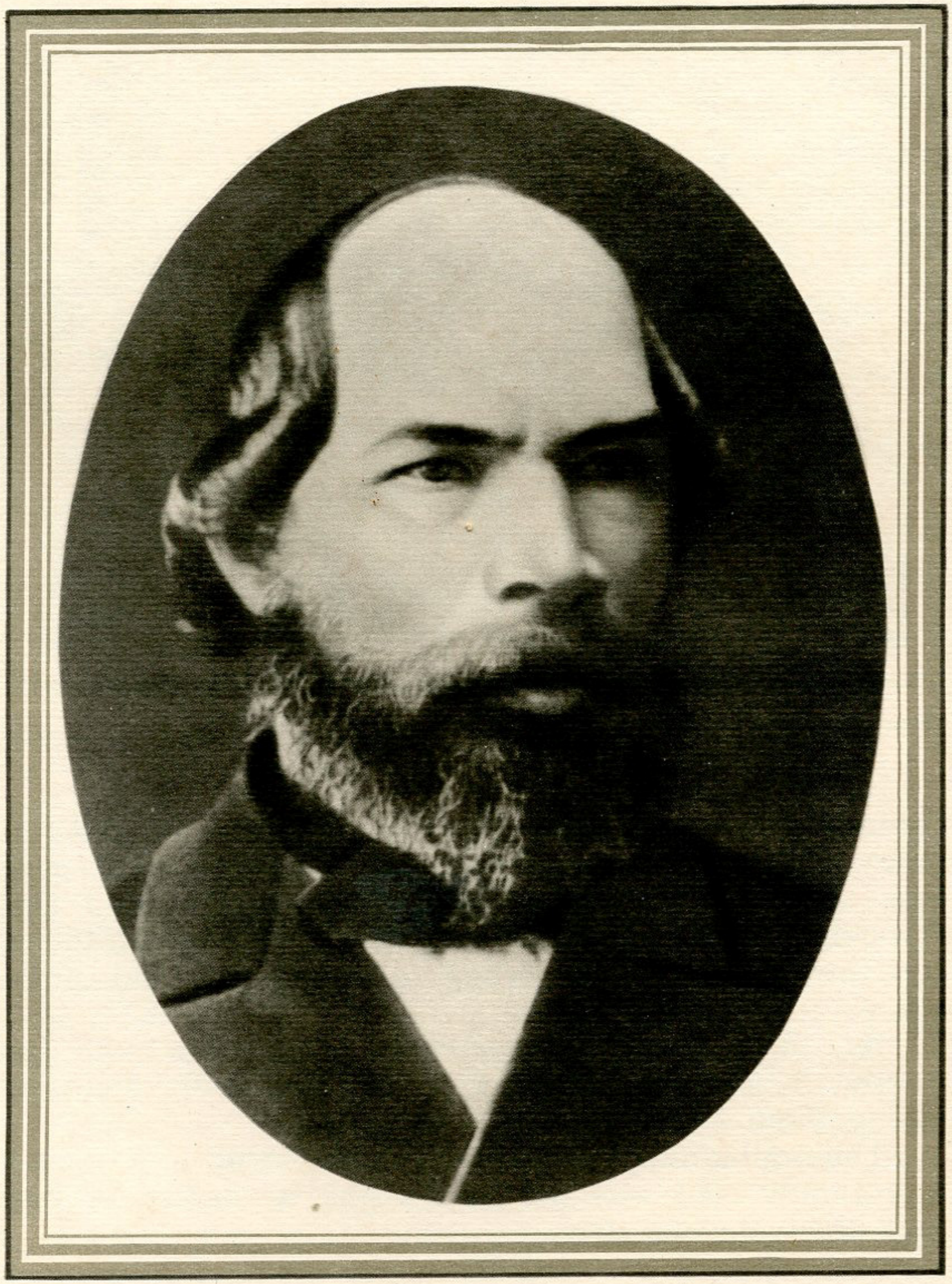
Vladimir's mother, Maria, came from a doctor's family. She spent most of her youth in the country, and was respected by the peasants who knew her. She loved music and had a good command of French, English and

Moskovskaya street in Simbirsk (1870s).

German which she taught to her children. She did not enjoy large gatherings and entertainments but spent most of her time with her children who loved and respected her greatly. She was always gentle with them, and they obeyed every word uttered in her kind, quiet voice.

Ilya also liked to spend his spare time with his family, teaching his children, playing with them or telling them stories.

Thus, Vladimir Ulyanov was brought up in a closely knit family. He was the third child, a very noisy boy with lively brown eyes.



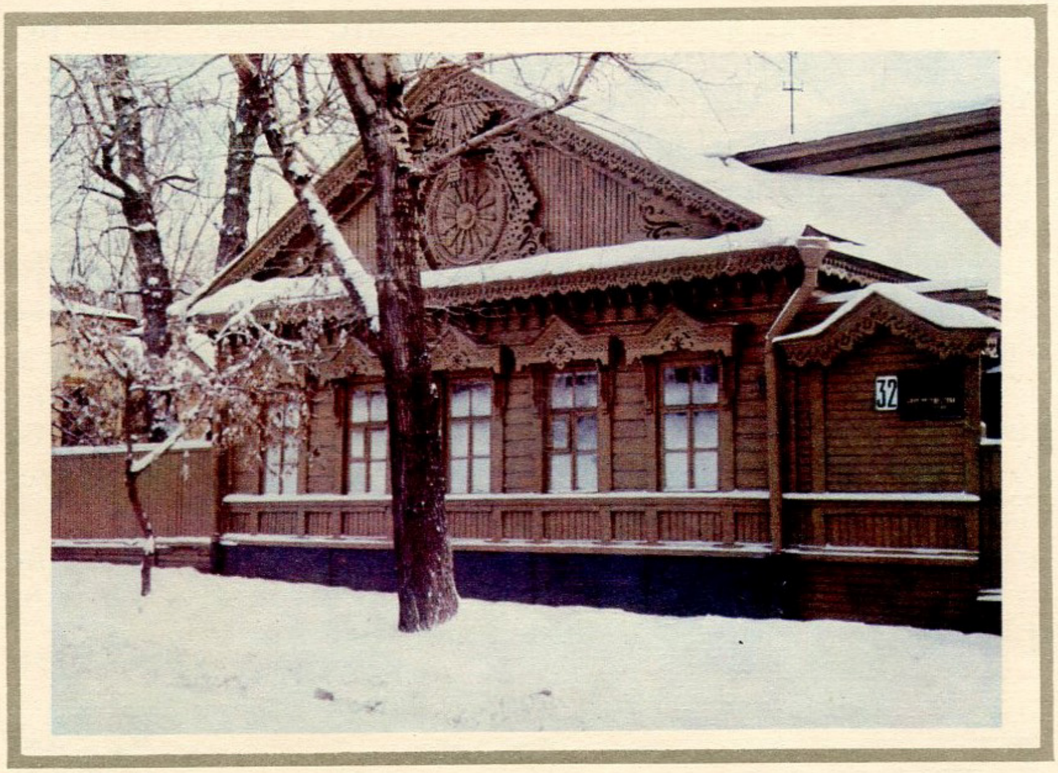
Ilya Ulyanov, Lenin's father.

Maria Ulyanova, Lenin's mother.

The home of the Ulyanovs from 1871 to 1875. The sculpture of Maria Ulyanova with her son Vladimir.

Vladimir and his sister Olga, who was eighteen months younger than he, were lively children, full of mischief. They were both fond of noisy games and romping, but Vladimir was the chief mischief-maker. One of his favourite tricks was to push Olga under the sofa and then shout a command, "Out you come, forward march!"

I remember he could not resist shouting even on board a big passenger boat when we were travelling to Kazan (in those days we used to spend the summer at our aunt's house, in a small village near the town).



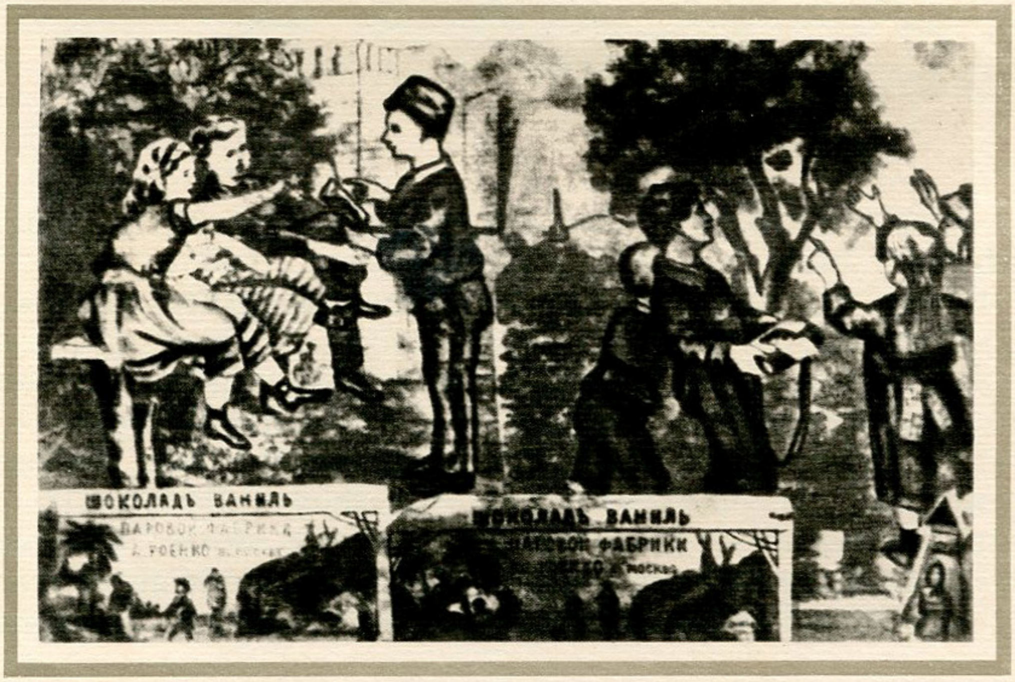
The house on Pokrovskaya street (now Lev Tolstoy street), the Ulyanovs' home from 1876 to 1878.

"You mustn't shout like that on board a ship," Mother said.

"But the ship itself shouts, doesn't it?" he cried as gaily as ever.

When he and Olga were too noisy even for Mother to bear it, she would take them to Father's study to 'calm down' and put them both in the big oilcloth armchair, or 'black armchair', as they called it. They would have to sit there for a while until Mother allowed them to return to their games. Once Vladimir alone was 'condemned' to the 'black armchair'. Just then someone came to talk to Mother and she quite forgot about her son. Some time later, however, she realised that his loud voice had not been heard around the house for quite a while. She looked into the study. Vladimir was still there, sitting quietly in the 'black armchair', fast asleep.

He seldom played with toys and when he did he usually broke them or took them apart. Since we, the older children, tried to prevent him from breaking toys, he often used to hide with his victims. I remember he once received a papier-mâché carriage drawn by three cardboard horses as a birthday present from his nurse. Quite soon we noticed that he had disappeared with his new toy. We began to look for him and found him behind a door. He was standing there quietly, twisting the legs of a horse till they came off one by one.



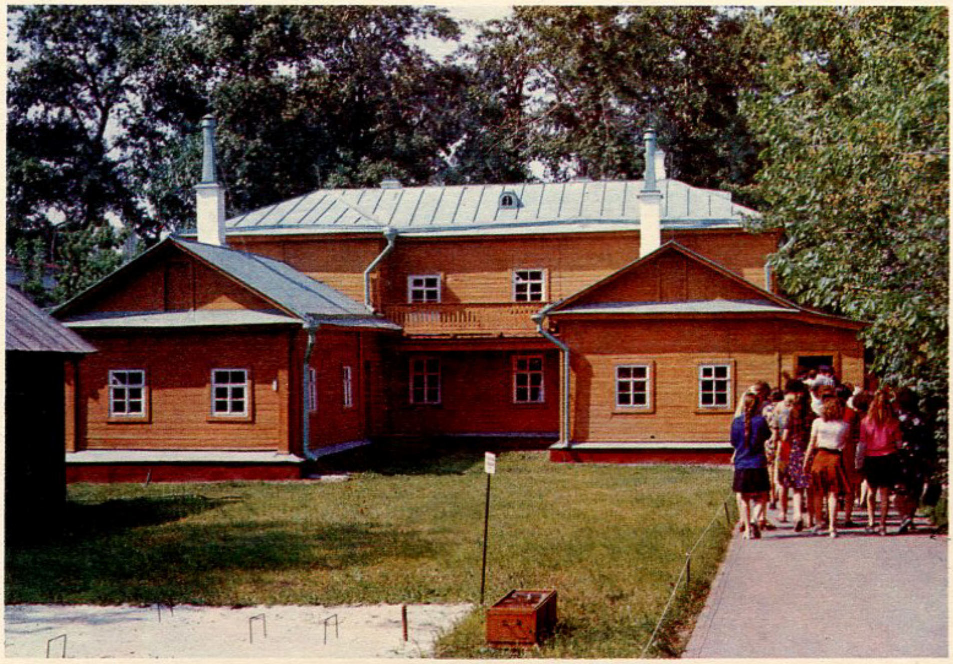
Vladimir's and Olga's drawings and chocolate wrappings glued to the lid of their nanny's box.

Chapter 2

Mother began teaching him to read when he was five. Both he and Olga enjoyed reading. They usually read children's books and magazines to which our father subscribed.They loved Russian history books and poetry. They learnt many poems off by heart. Olga, however, was more interested in poetry than her brother. She knew many long and difficult poems and recited them very well.

When Vladimir was seven or eight, his favourite poem was "A Poor Man's Song", and he would enthusiastically recite the following lines:

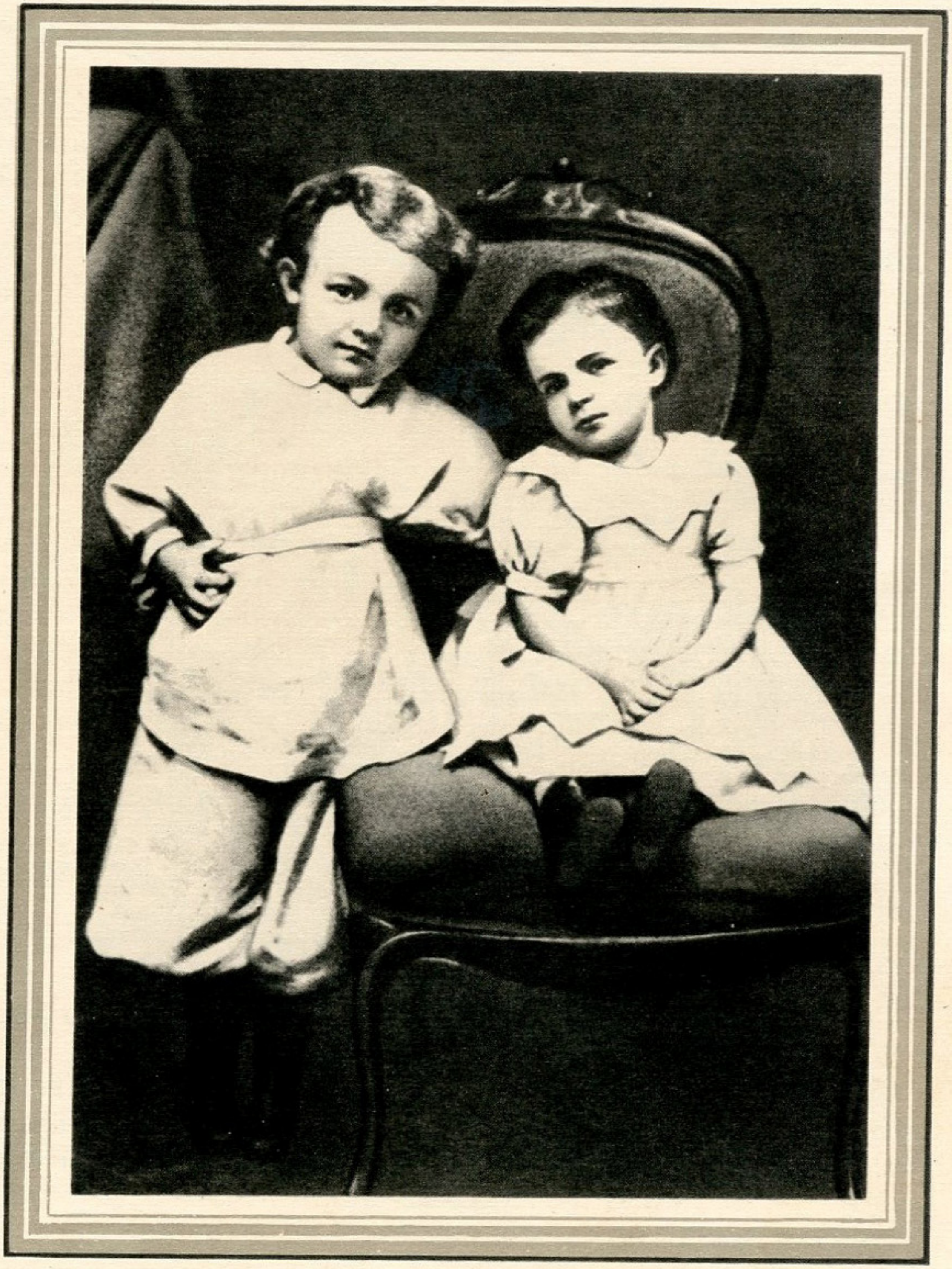
> A wealthy fool for all his money
> Has lost his sleep and peace of mind.
> A poor man with an empty tummy
> Is always cheerful and kind.



The house on Moskovskaya street where the Ulyanovs lived from 1878 to 1887. Now the Lenin Memorial Museum.

He obviously liked the words very much.

As a child, Vladimir did not have a favourite book as such. He liked the magazine "Detskoye Chtenie" (A Children's Reader), for example. He would read it for a while and then, putting it aside, would run off to play the usual active and noisy games with his sister. In summer they would run out into the yard or garden, climb the trees and play hide-and-seek with us (we used to call that game 'the black stick'). Vladimir used to like it very much. Later he became keen on croquet. In



Vladimir and Olga, 1874.

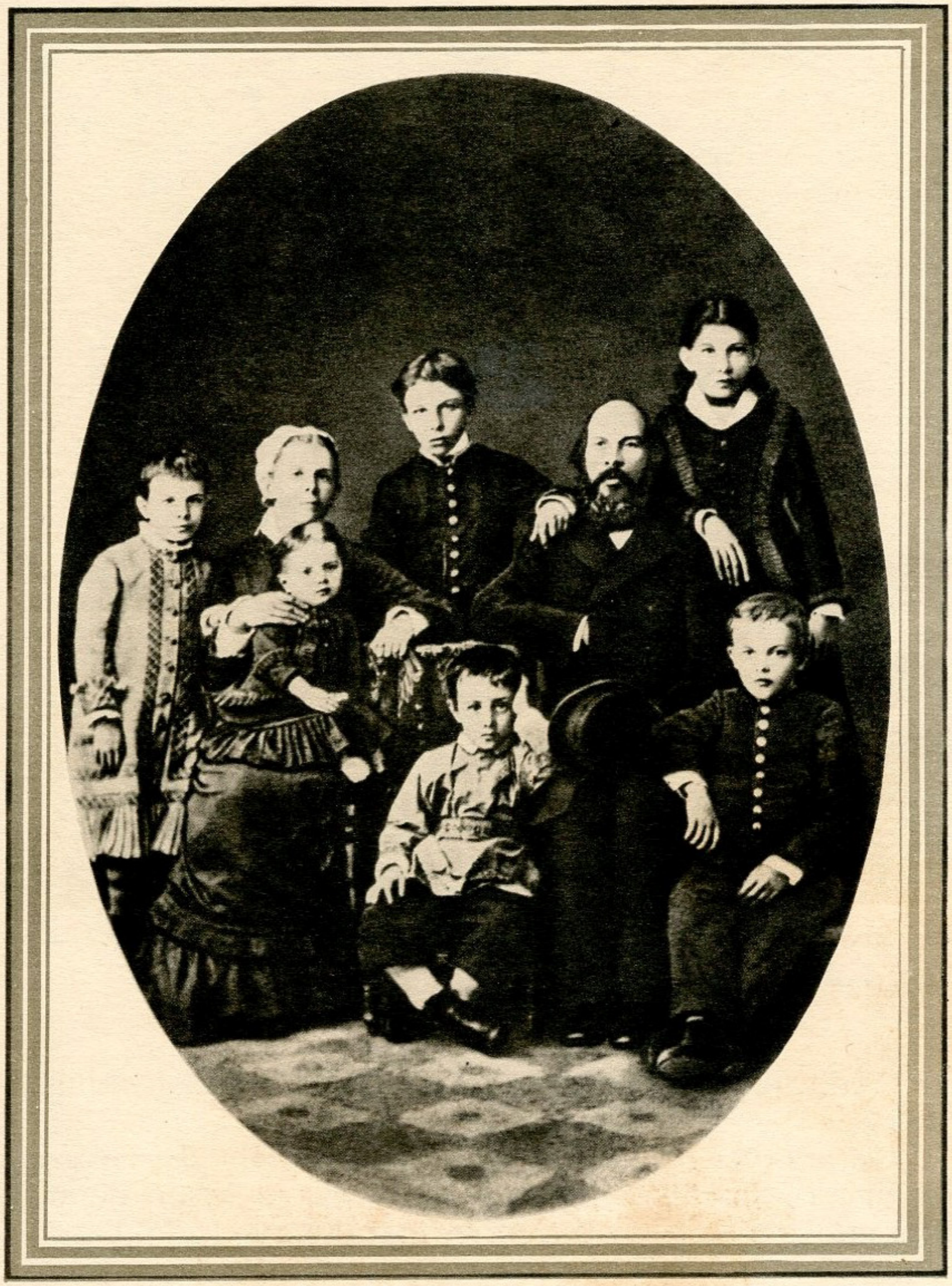
winter he liked to slide down high hills on a sledge, to play snowballs and later to ice-skate.

I remember he and our older brother Alexander used to go to the skating-rink in Simbirsk where they skated down high icy slopes which were too steep even for sledding. First they would bend double while still on the highest part and then, whizzing down towards the bottom, would gradually straighten up and glide for some distance, standing upright on their skates. I envied their courage but did not dare to try it myself. I think that Vladimir found it easier to skate downhill than did Alexander, for he was smaller and rather stocky. But it was not until he started going to school, of course, that he learnt to skate so well.

As you know already, Vladimir was a rather mischievous child. But for all that he was very truthful and always owned up to all his pranks. I remember, at the age of five, he once broke a ruler which his older sister had just received as a present. He ran to her with the ruler and told her that he had broken it. When she asked how it had happened he said, 'Like this', and showed how he had broken the ruler against his knee.

"It's good he doesn't hide anything he does," Mother said.

Though, he did once, she told us later. She was busy in the kitchen one day, peeling apples for a pie. Vladimir was standing nearby, and asked for some peel. She said one shouldn't eat apple peel. Just then somebody called her and when she returned she found that the boy had gone. She looked out of the window and saw him sitting at the garden table, quickly eating a piece of the stolen peel. When she told him off he burst into tears and promised never to do it again.



The Ulyanov family, 1879.

Ilya's study in the Ulyanov house.

"And indeed, he kept his promise," Mother recalled later.

On another occasion, when he was eight, he covered up one of his little pranks. It happened when he was first allowed to go with Father and the older children on

Maria's room.

a summer trip to Kokushkino, a village near Kazan. One day at our aunt's house in Kazan, Vladimir was romping around with his brothers and sisters. Quite accidentally he knocked a small table and a glass jug fell to the floor and smashed into pieces. At that moment our aunt came

The nursery in the Ulyanov house.

into the room.

"Who broke the jug, children?" she asked.

"Not me," "Not me," said each child.

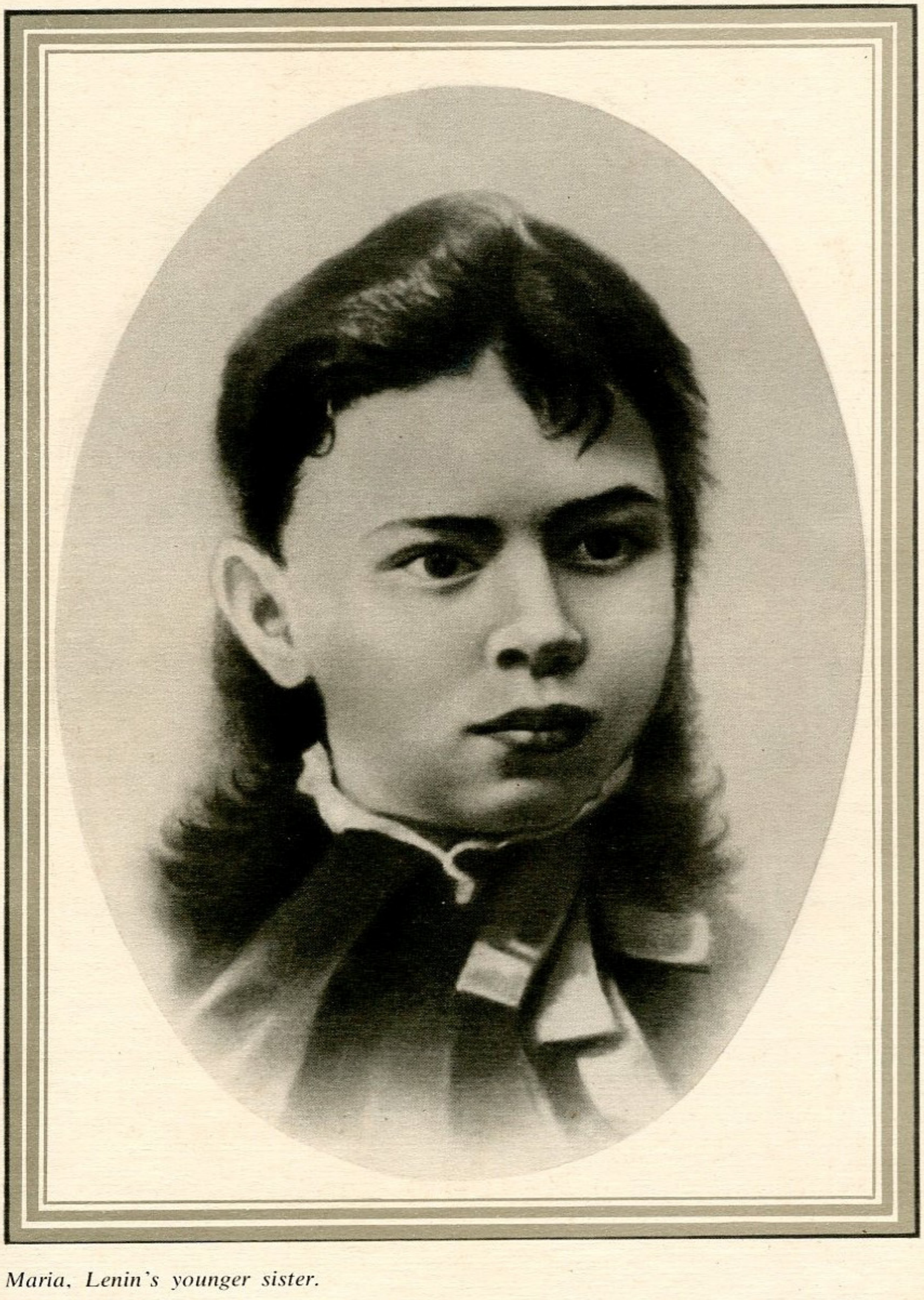
"Not me," echoed Vladimir.

He did not have the courage to own up to an almost complete stranger, even more so when he was a stranger

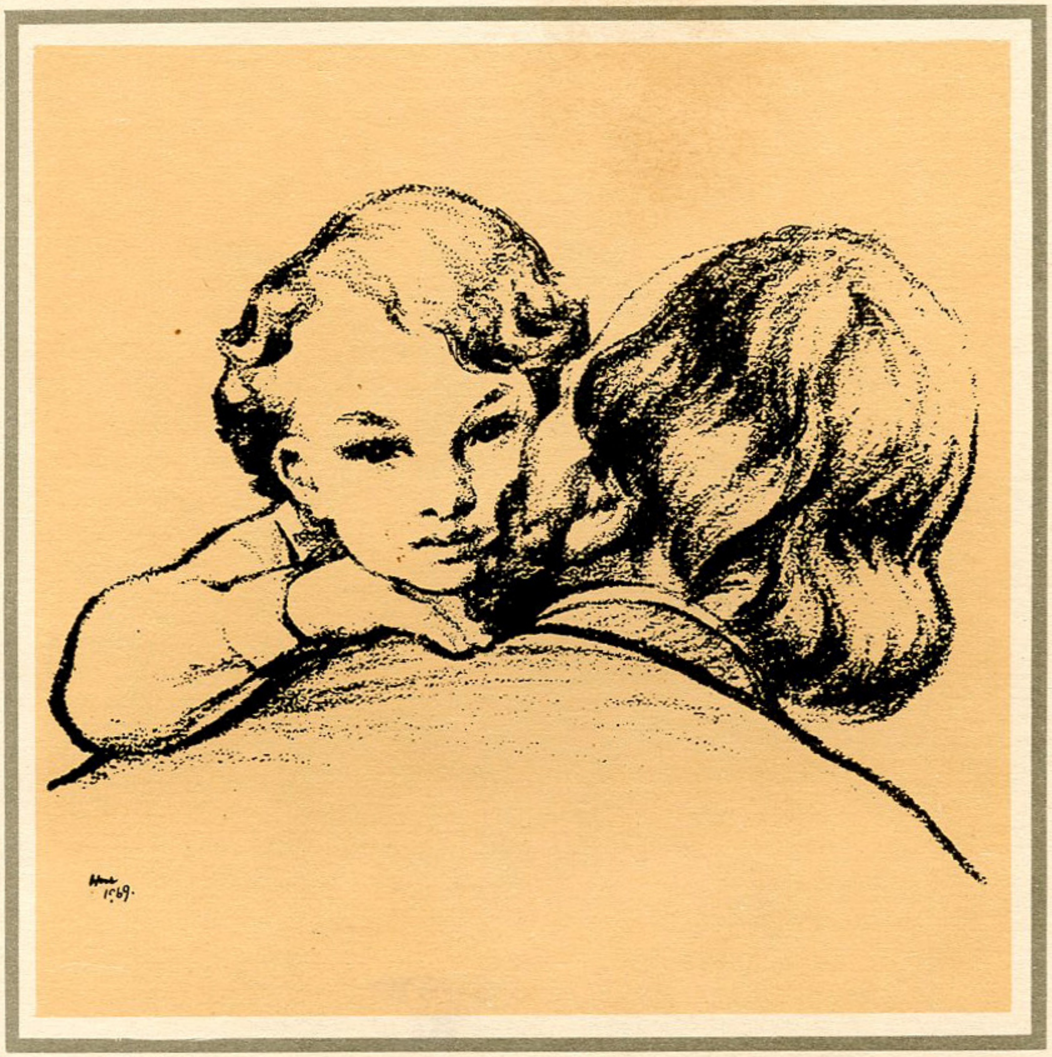
Anna Ulyanova, Lenin's older sister.

The sitting-room in the Ulyanov house.

himself in the house. Besides, he, the youngest, could not bring himself to say, 'I did', when the rest of us just said, 'Not me'. So, for all our aunt knew, the jug had broken all by itself. Two or three months later when the family had already returned home, Mother, as usual,



Maria, Lenin's younger sister.

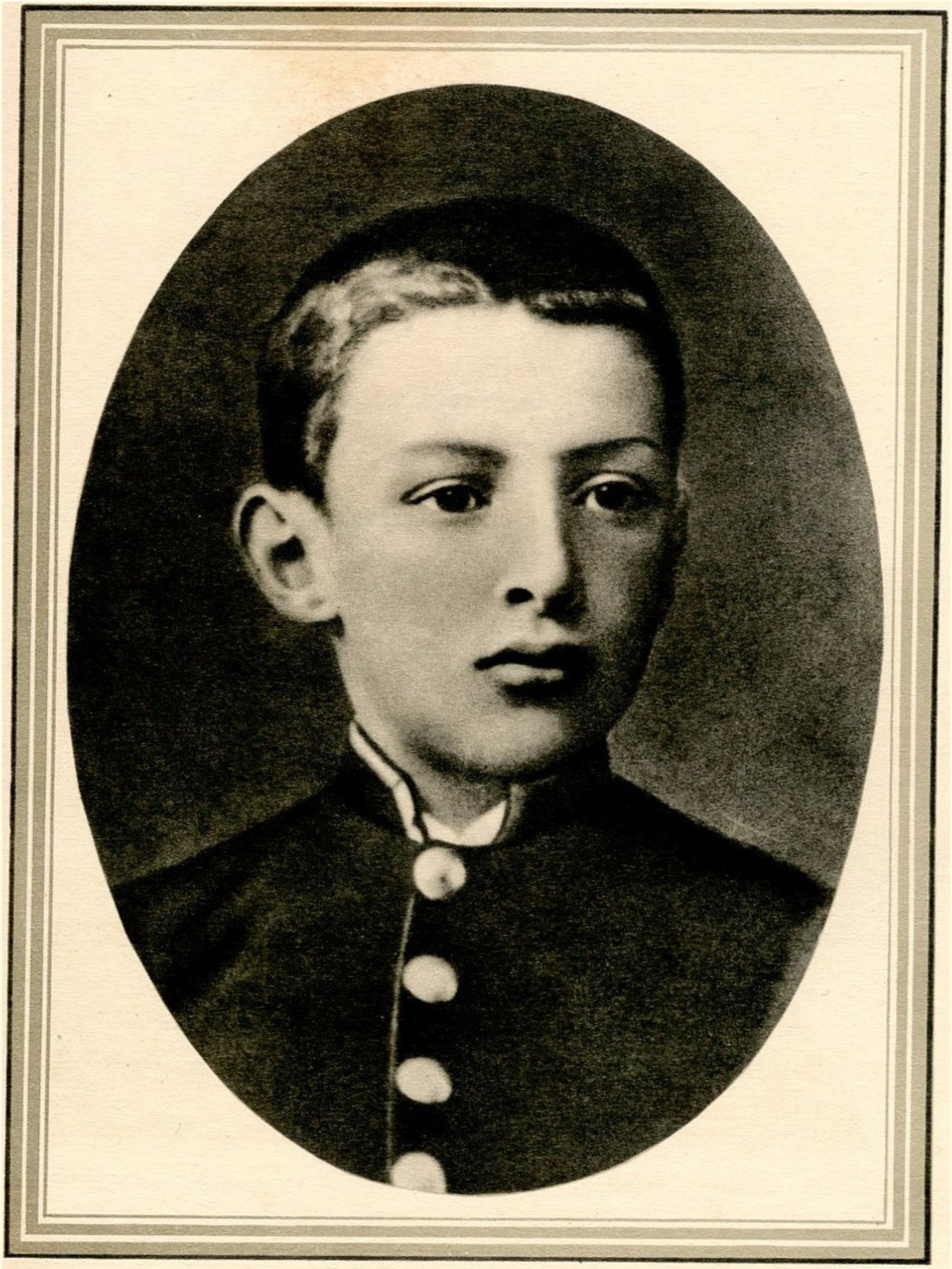


Father and son ***(by N. Zhukov).***

went to her son's bedside to kiss him goodnight and found him crying.

"I lied to Aunt Anya," he muttered through his sobs. "I said I didn't break the jug, but I did."

Mother consoled him by promising that she would



Dmitry Ulyanov, Lenin's younger brother.

write to Aunt Anya who would most certainly forgive him.

Clearly Vladimir could not bear to tell a lie, and even though on the one occasion he did, he had felt uncomfortable until he confessed everything.

Vladimir's room.

Chapter 3

Vladimir started school when he was nine and a half. For two years he had been taught by private tutors, first by a schoolmaster and then a schoolmistress from a nearby school. Vladimir liked her very much. He studied with her for an hour or two each day, sometimes before school between eight and nine in the morning and sometimes at odd hours, whenever she was free. That was usually between nine and ten, when her pupils were studying in religious education, painting or craft classes. Vladimir enjoyed his lessons and would run all the way to his teacher. I remember once on a chilly autumn morning mother wanted him to put on a warm coat, but before she could say a word he had

The dining-room in the Ulyanov house.

already disappeared. She went out onto the porch to call him back, but he was already running round the corner.

He grasped everything quickly and was a good pupil. Besides, Father's lessons stood him in good stead. Father taught us to work hard and well at our homework. Vladimir's teachers said that he never missed a single word they spoke in class. This helped him greatly in his studies. His brilliant memory and quick-mindedness made it possible for him to take in a newly explained topic or rule during the lesson, so all he had to do at home was to brush it up a little. I remember that by the time we, the older children, had put out our textbooks on the large dining-room table Vladimir had already done his homework. He was running around, mimicking the younger children and making such a terrible noise that we, senior pupils by then, could not get on with our studies.

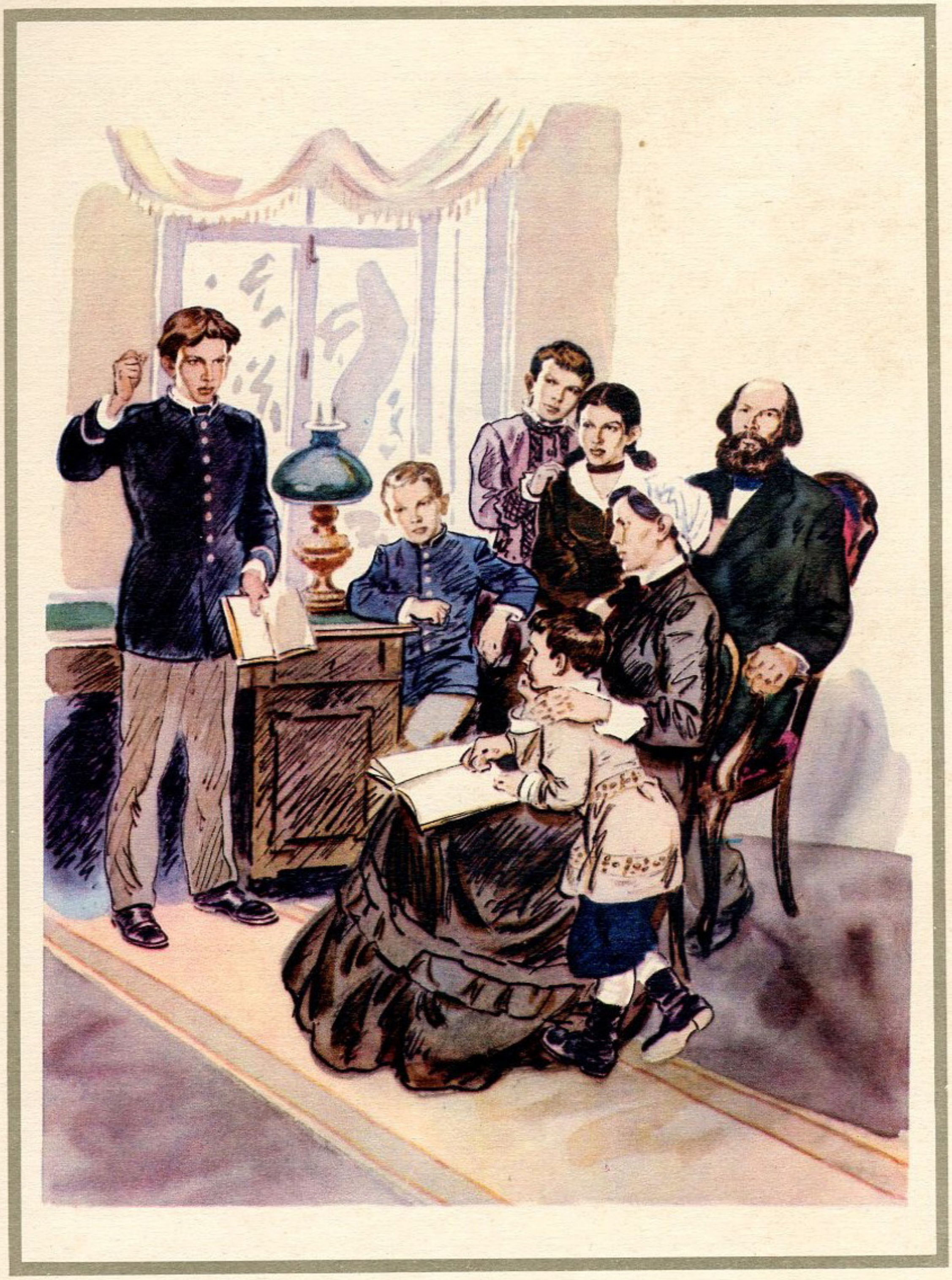
"Vladimir, stop that noise!", "Mummy, he's quite impossible!" we would cry in exasperation but in vain, for he would start his noisy tricks all over again. Then Mother took her younger ones to the sitting-room where they sang songs to her accompaniment on the piano.

Vladimir had a good ear for music and loved to sing. But even while singing he could not help laughing or playing tricks. His younger brother Dmitry, who between the age of three and five, was very sensitive, could never finish the song "The Little Kid" without weeping for the unfortunate creature who was eaten by wolves. Mother tried to comfort him and explained that it was only a song, but as soon as Dmitry calmed down and tried to sing the saddest lines, Vladimir would turn to him, pull a dreadful face and sing, "The great big wolves caught the poor little kid..." Dmitry would fight to hold back his tears, but Vladimir would continue to sing with an even more tragic air, "Nothing was left of the poor kid but his little horns and hooves..." until Dmitry could bear it no longer and burst into tears. I remember that I even quarreled with Vladimir over that, for I did not like him teasing a little boy.

Chapter 4

When Father was at home he usually came to our rescue by taking Vladimir into his study and checking his homework. More often than not Vladimir knew his lessons well. Then Father would test him on all the Latin words scribbled in the boy's notebook. Vladimir usually had them at his finger-tips. And so, if Father could no longer keep his son busy with anything, a game of chess, for example, the brief silence in the dining-room would soon be disrupted again.

Father enjoyed playing chess, and so did all his sons. It was a great treat to be summoned into the study where Father would be arranging the chessmen on the board. Those chessmen, our father's pride and the



Alexander Ulyanov reciting a poem by Nekrasov to his family **(by N. Lyamin).**

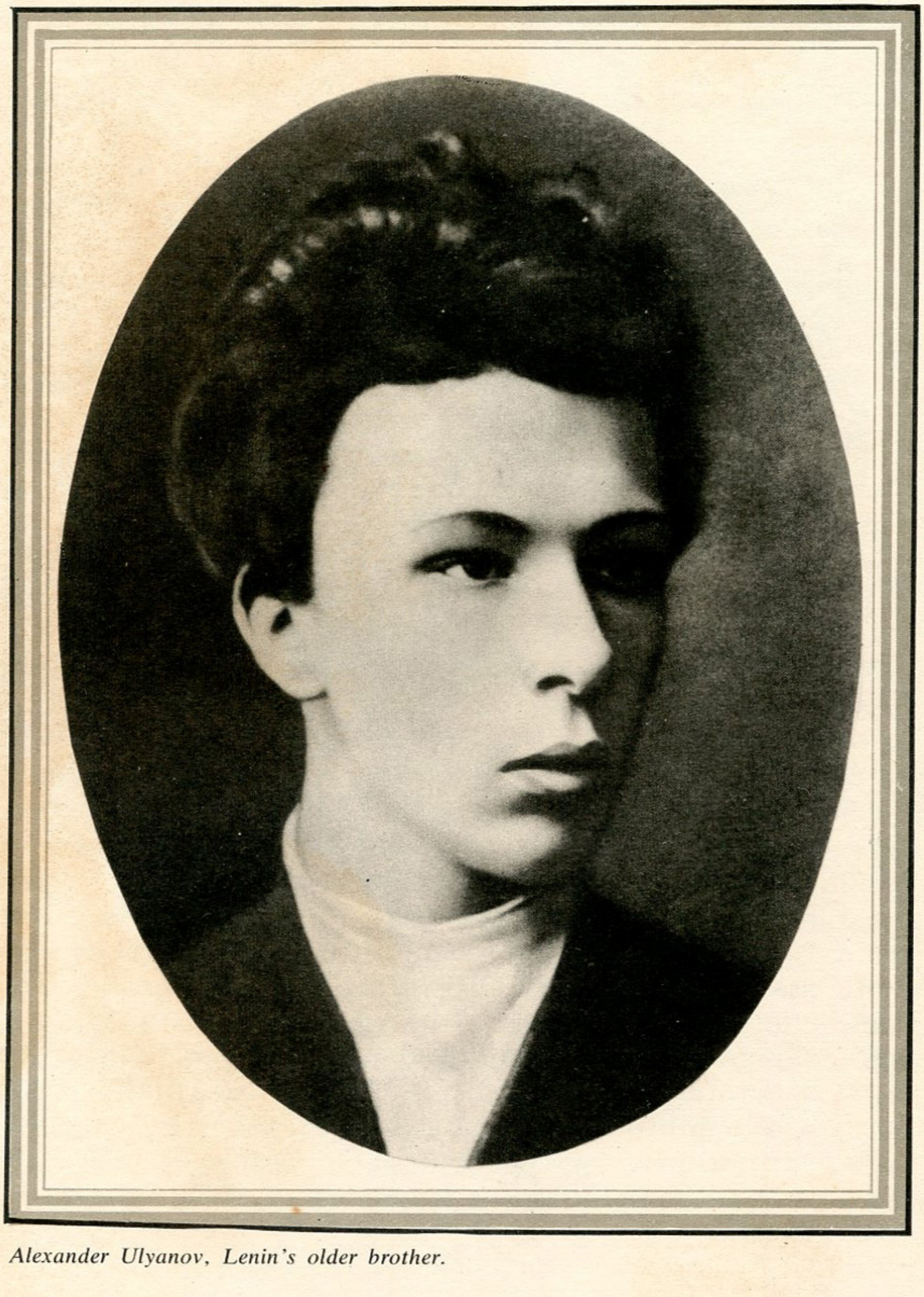
The chess-set used by the Ulyanov family.

family's treasure, had been turned by him on a lathe while he was still in Nizhny Novgorod, before our family moved to Simbirsk. We all learnt to play, and later when Vladimir was living abroad, Mother sent that set over to him. However, in Krakov, at the outbreak of

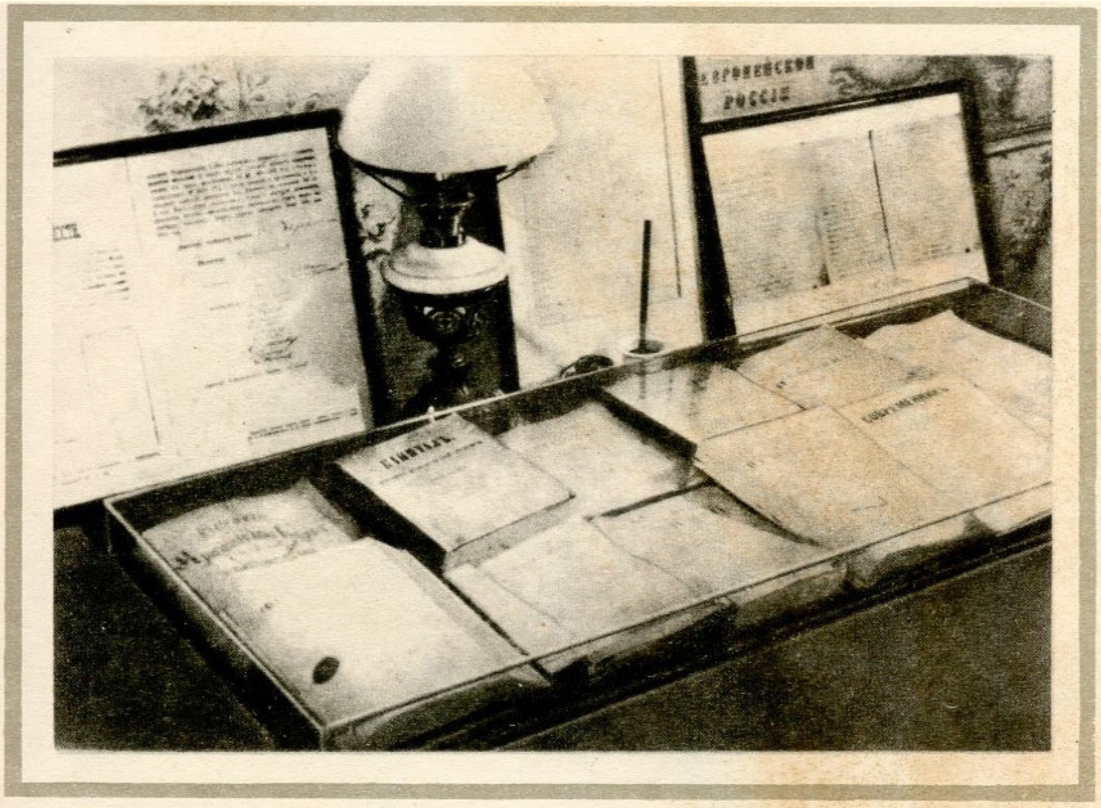
World War I, Lenin was arrested, and when he was released he had to leave the city in a hurry. Most of his belongings were left behind, among them the family chess-set.

As a boy, he played chess with either Alexander or Father. We, girls, did not play as often. I remember one autumn, however, the four of us, the three older children and Father, used to play chess in pairs and often sat up very late over a game. But of course, when school started we had to abandon these tournaments.

Vladimir took everything very seriously, so he began to study chess like his older brother, using special books and manuals. As a result, he learnt to play really well. That hobby later brightened up his life in exile, when he was forced to live for a long time in a village lost in the wilderness, and then abroad. When he was a schoolboy, his favourite partner was Alexander. Vladimir loved him dearly. He played all the games his big brother played and, in fact, tried to imitate everything Alexander did down to the smallest detail. Whenever he was asked what game he would like to play or whether he would like butter or milk with his porridge, he would not answer without first looking at his brother. Alexander, knowing this weakness, would often pause for a while, also waiting for his brother's reply. This amused us greatly. But even teasing was of little use, for he just replied 'Like Alexander' to almost every question. In fact, his brother's influence did him only good, for Alexander was a serious, thoughtful youth and set a fine example of hard work, a sense of responsibility and duty. This friendship not only helped Vladimir in his studies. For all of us Alexander was a kind of authority. We admired him for his kindness and tact combined with moral strength and a sense of justice. His even



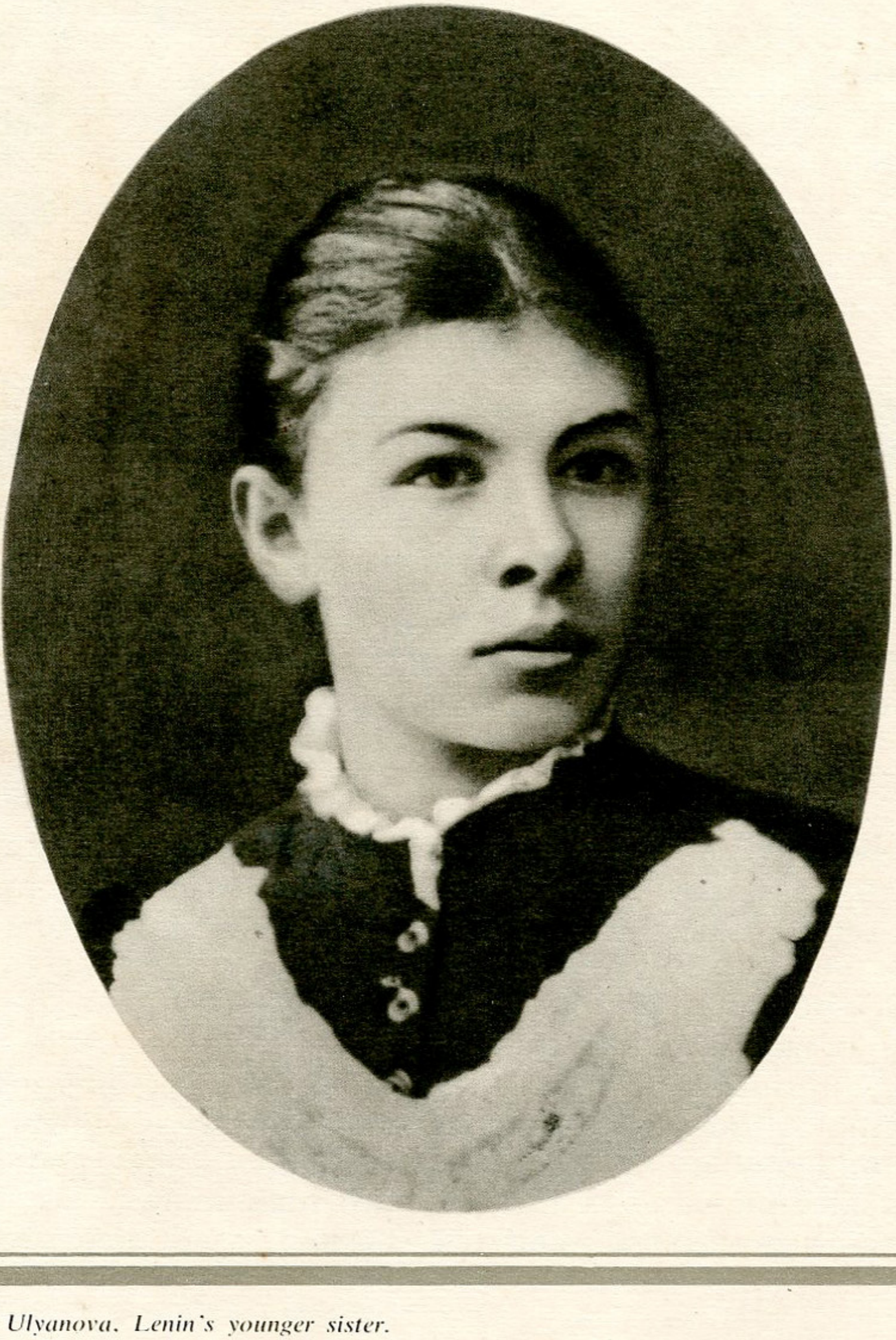
Alexander Ulyanov, Lenin's older brother.



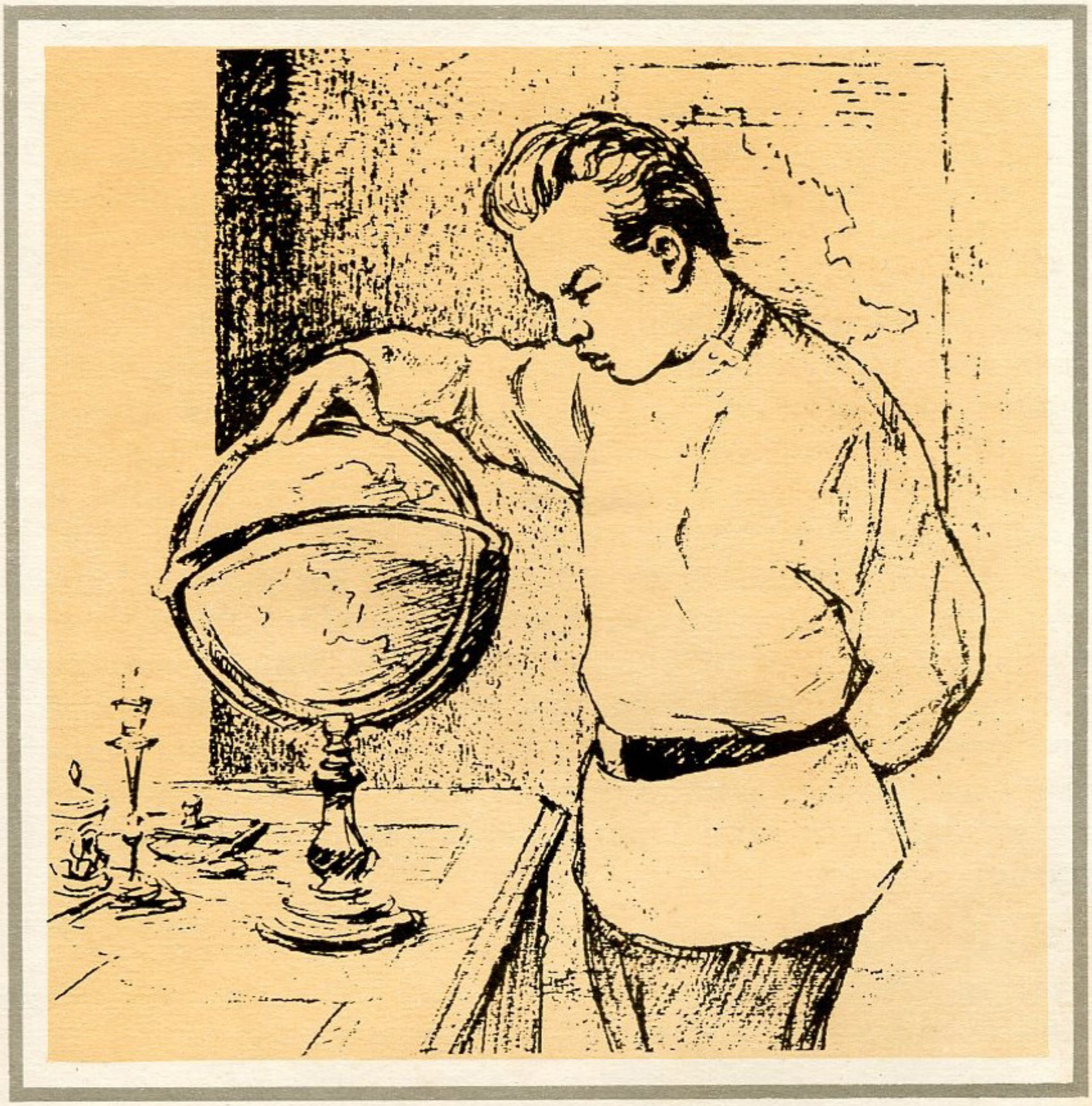
Books and papers in Alexander Ulyanov's room.

temper and cool-mindedness had a favourable influence on us all, particularly on Vladimir, who was rather hot-tempered as a boy. First by merely imitating his brother he started consciously to curb his quick temper, and when he grew up, he never, or hardly ever showed any signs of it.

In the same way Vladimir started to develop working habits. Although, as I have said, he was a dutiful and serious boy as far as his studies were concerned, and this attitude always brought him high marks, his good memory and quick mind saved him a lot of time. He did



Olga Ulyanova, Lenin's younger sister.



In his father's study ***(by N. Zhukov).***

not have to sit over his textbooks for long. But he was clever enough to realise that he could not rely on his memory alone. I remember him saying once, after listening to Olga's long and tedious piano exercises, "Her capacity for work is to be envied". So he began to study in earnest, developing working habits in himself, habits which later, during his university life and later years, amazed everybody.

Actually, his ability to see things as they were, with their advantages and disadvantages, was noticeable even in his childhood. A lively and sometimes mischievous boy, he quickly noticed other people's weaknesses and was always ready to make fun of them. But as we have seen, he just as readily noticed other people's strong points and judged his behavior by them, trying first to make sure whether he was right before going ahead.

That, I believe, was one of his great merits. I remember that he often used to say, "I wonder if I would have enough courage to do that? Maybe not."

He never boasted or put on airs. He detested these qualities in others too, and later in his famous speech at the 3rd Congress of the Young Communist Leauge he warned young people against them. Our father did not approve of boasting either. He never praised us much, but was pleased with our successes at school, particurlarly Vladimir's, and tried to encourage us to work still harder.

Chapter 5

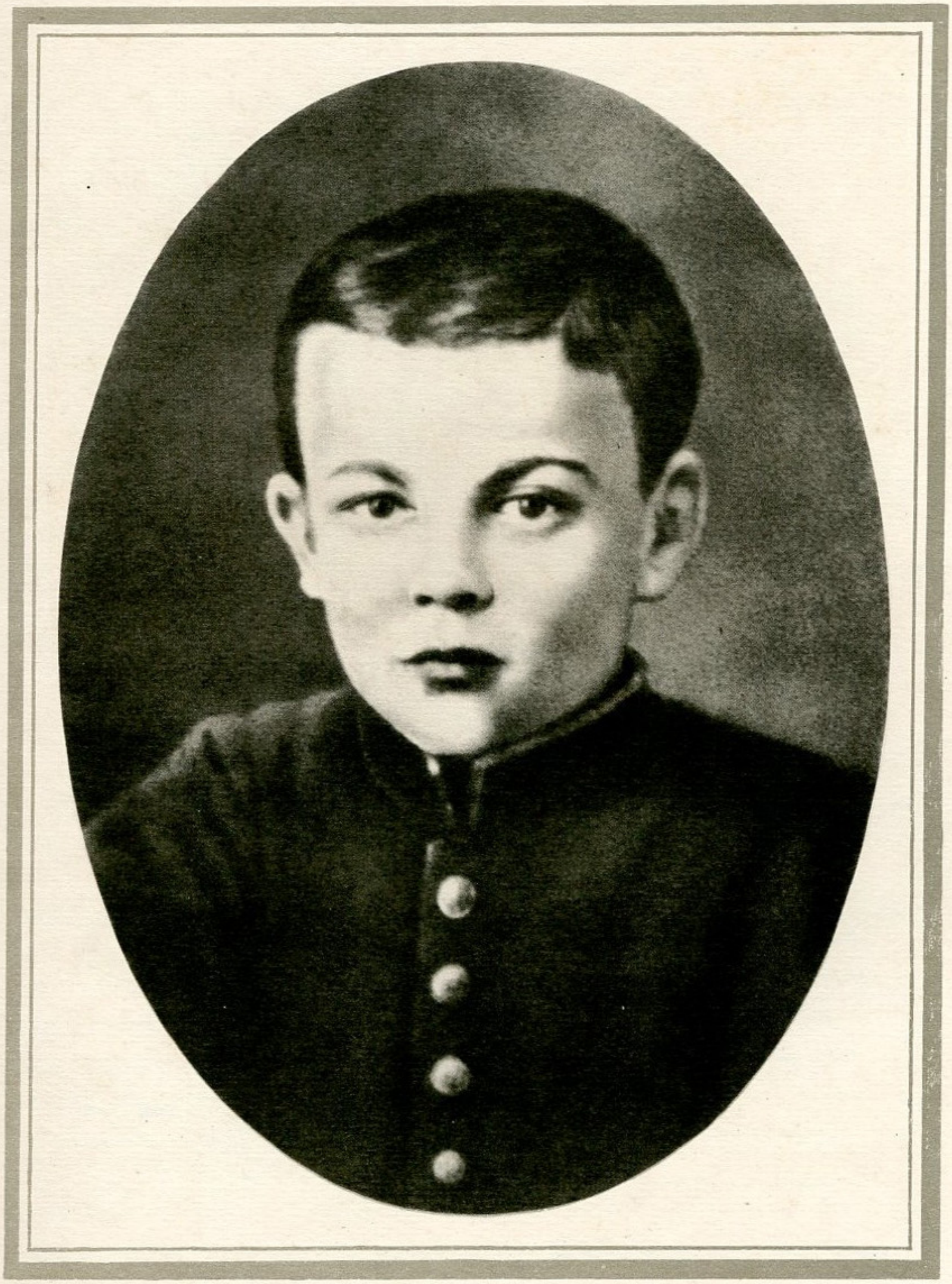
Coming home from school, Vladimir usually gave his father a full account of his school-day. Since more often than not it was the same—good answers and top marks were almost a routine—sometimes he would walk quickly through the room adjoining Father's study on his way to his own room and would rattle off: "Greek, excellent; German, excellent."

I remember that scene vividly. I was sitting in Father's study and caught a glimpse of my parents smiling happily at each other. They were looking through the doorway at their stocky little son in his

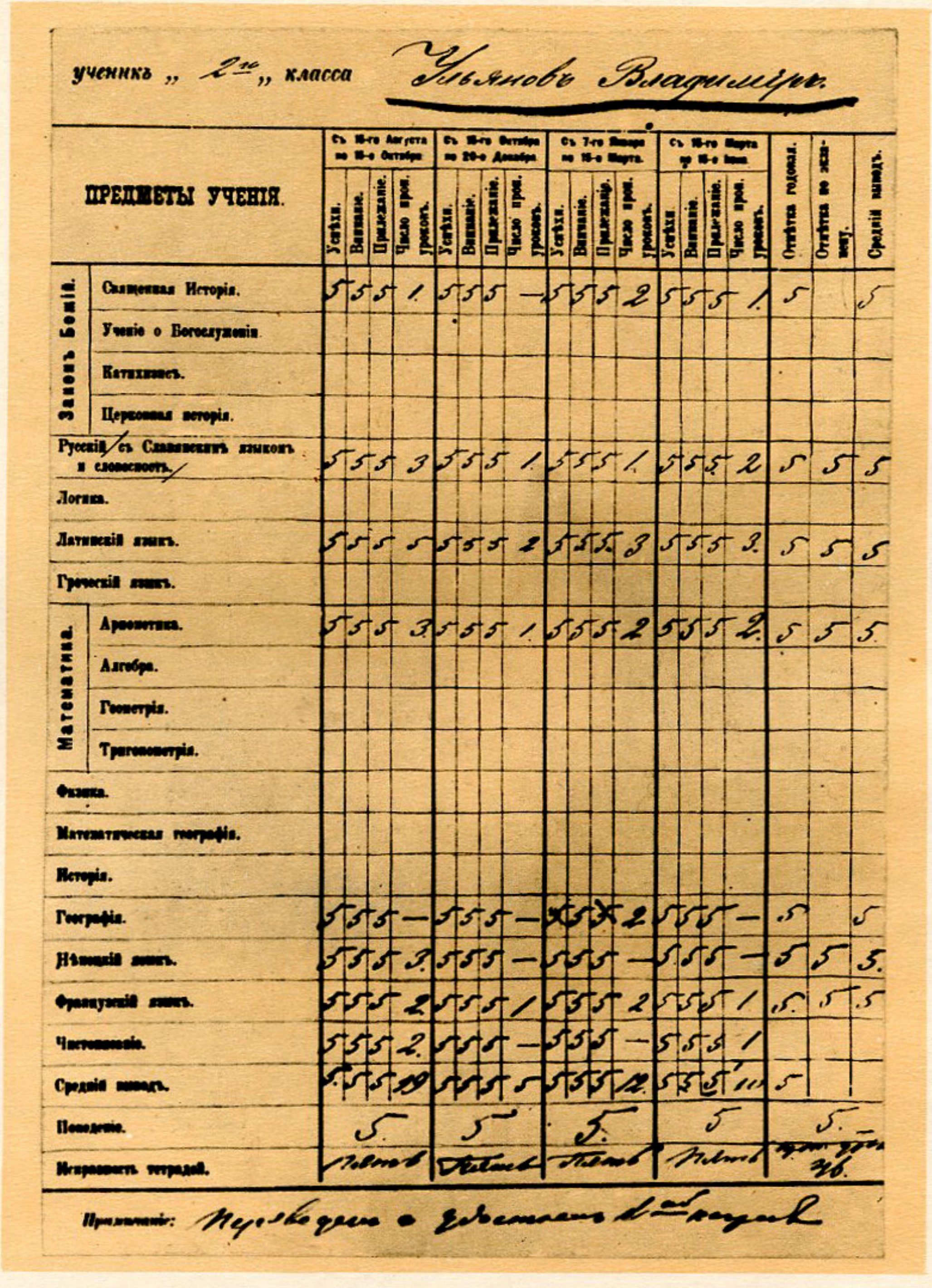
The building which housed the junior classes of the Simbirsk high school for boys. Vladimir Ulyanov studied here from 1879 to 1880.

school uniform, his blond hair sticking from under his cap. The subjects were different, of course. His report might sound like this, 'Latin, excellent, algebra, excellent', but the mark was usually the same.

During those years Father would often complain to Mother that Vladimir's successes at school were coming too easily. He was afraid that his son might become too carefree about his work. We now know that his fears were groundless, for Vladimir succeeded in developing an extraordinary capacity for work.



Vladimir Ulyanov as a first-year pupil.



ученикъ „ 2го „ класса Ульяновъ Владиміръ.

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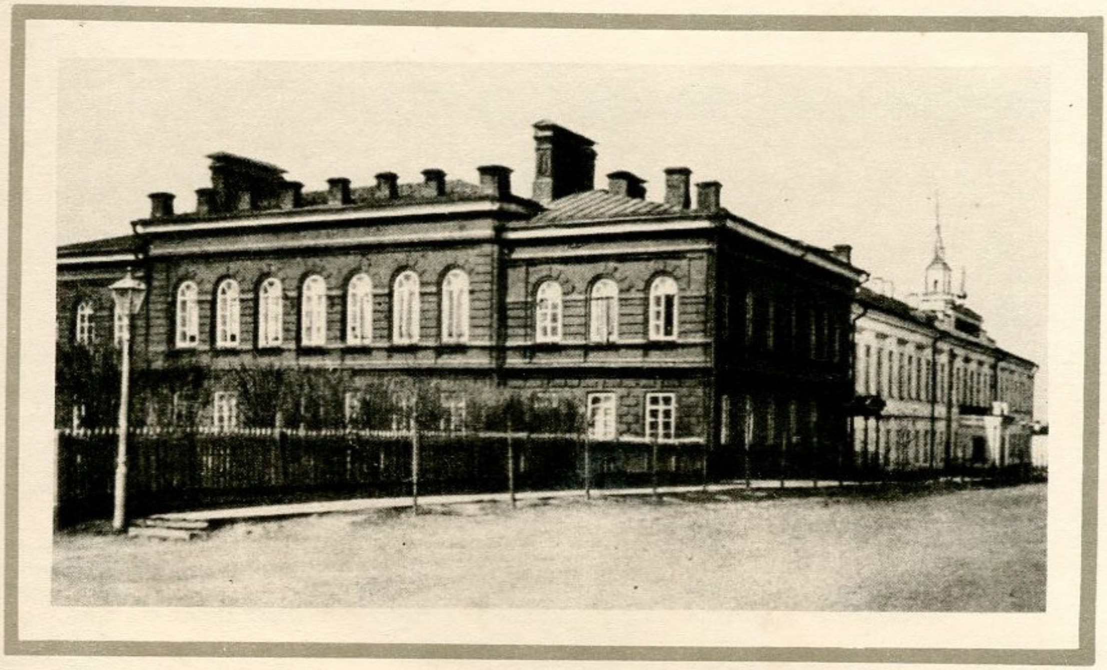
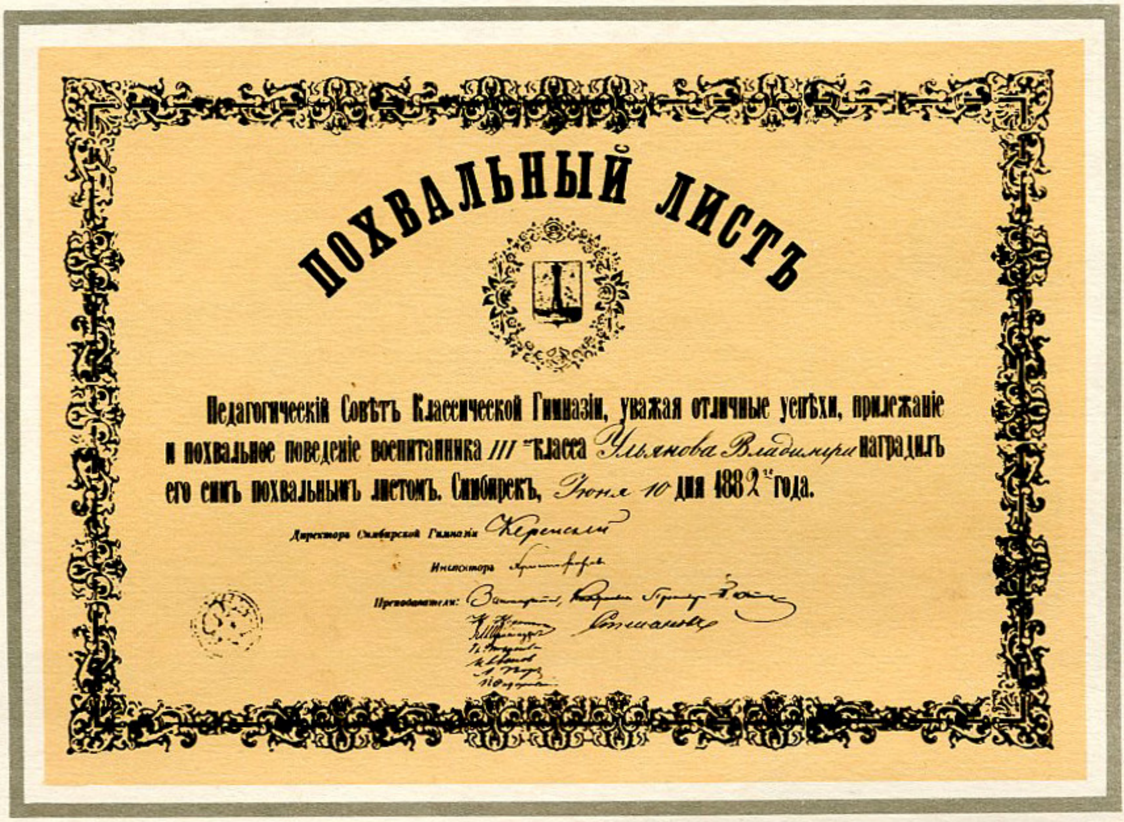
Vladimir Ulyanov's second year school report.



The Simbirsk High School for boys where Vladimir Ulyanov studied from 1880 to 1887.

He always loved a good joke and a hearty laugh. When he was with his friends or younger brother and sister he was the tireless leader of all their games. His laughter could be heard all over the house, and there was no end to his jokes and funny stories.

Vera Kashkadamova, a schoolmistress in a Simbirsk school and a close friend of our parents, said in her memoirs that she did not know of a merrier family than the Ulyanovs. She described an evening in our house when the whole family gathered for tea. "Vladimir's and Olga's voices were the loudest of all. Their infectious laughter could be heard everywhere," she wrote. They talked about the day's events and recalled something



ПОХВАЛЬНЫЙ ЛИСТЪ

Педагогическій Совѣтъ Классической Гимназіи, уважая отличные успѣхи, прилежаніе и похвальное поведеніе воспитанника III-го класса Ульянова Владимира наградилъ его симъ похвальнымъ листомъ. Симбирскъ, Іюня 10 дня 1882-го года.

Директоръ Симбирской Гимназіи Керенскій

Инспекторъ

Преподаватели: Степановъ

The certificate of merit awarded to Vladimir Ulyanov in the third form.

funny that had happened at school. Father, too, would join in, sometimes putting aside his work in his study. He would tell them funny stories from his own school years and would crack jokes. "Everybody laughed to their heart's content, and it was such a joy to spend time with this closely knit family," Vera Kashkadamova wrote.

I still remember some of Vladimir's little pranks. One day our cousin, a doctor, came to stay with us. A lady-doctor was a rarity in those days; our cousin was one of the first. Now, as she was talking to Father and Mother in the sitting-room, there came a muffled whisper and little giggles from behind the door. Just then Vladimir came running into the room and declared cheerfully:

"Anyuta, I'm ill. Will you help me?"

"Why, what's the matter with you?" the young doctor asked condescendingly, sensing that the boy was only pulling her leg.

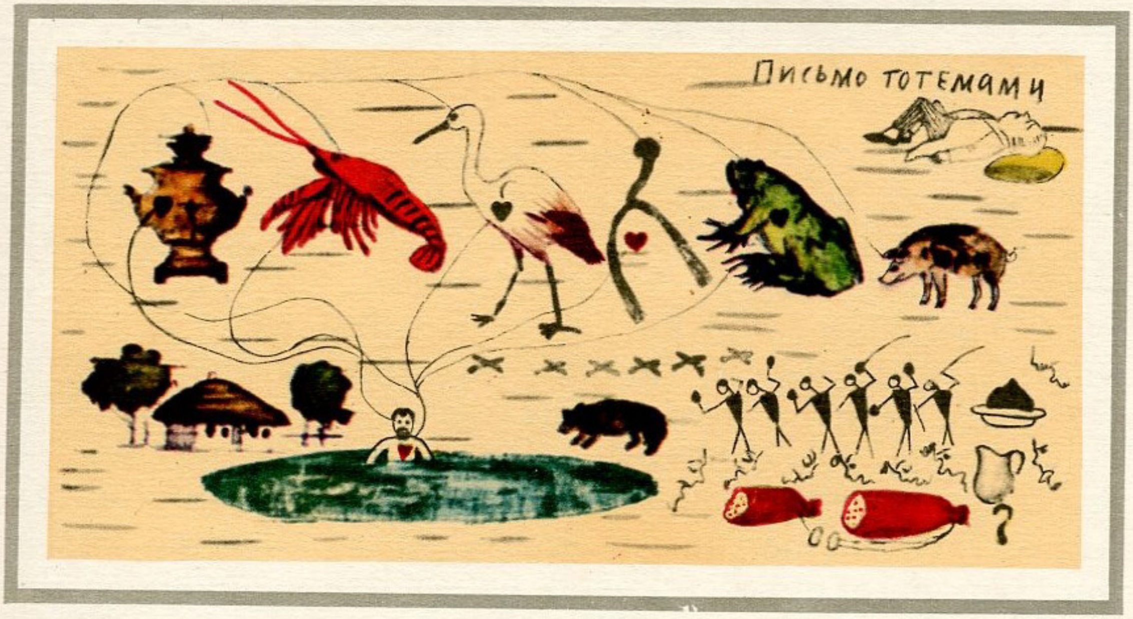
"There's something wrong with my appetite. You see, the more I eat, the hungrier I am."

"Well then, go to the kitchen, cut off a good slice of brown bread and eat it."

"I've already tried that but it didn't help."

"Try it once more, this time I'm sure it will help."

There was nothing more he could do, so off he



Vladimir Ulyanov's letter in pictures to his classmate Boris Farmakovsky.

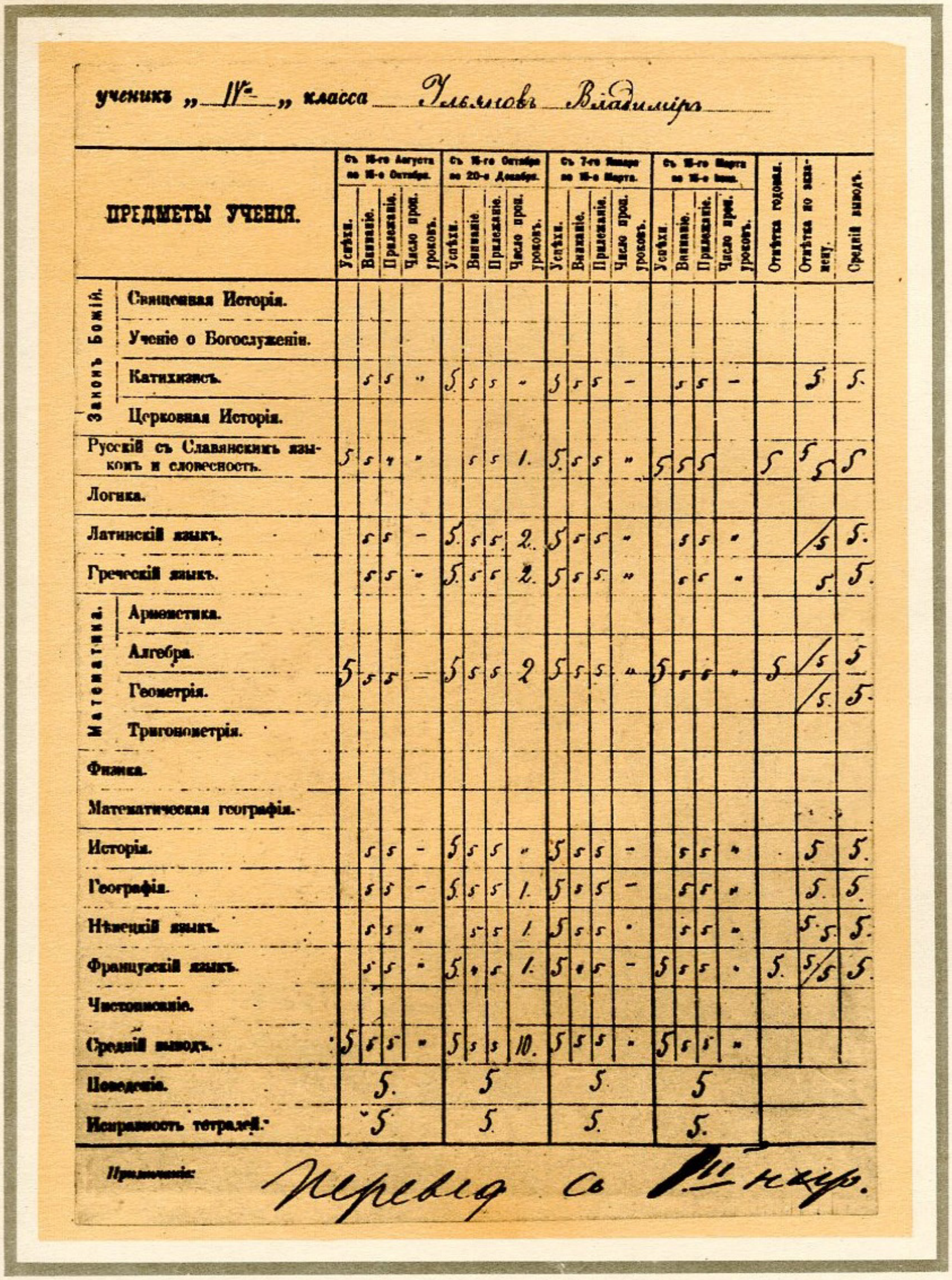
went.

He loved music. Mother taught him some simple pieces and songs for children, and he learned to play them fluently and expressively. Later she regretted that he had stopped his music lessons because he had been so good at them.

There was a custom in Russia in those days to set birds free from their cages in spring. That custom appealed to Vladimir very much, and he often asked Mother for some money so he could buy a bird and then release it.

True, he also liked to catch birds and often set bird-traps with his friends. I remember he once had a linnet in the cage. I am not sure whether he had caught it himself or whether someone had given it to him, but anyway the bird lived only a short while, for all of a sudden it grew sad, ruffled its feathers and died. I don't know why this happened, whether it was really Vladimir's fault or not; maybe he had forgotten to feed the linnet. But I remember that when somebody reproached him for it, Vladimir looked at the dead linnet gravely and said, "I will never keep birds in cages again." And he didn't.

He went fishing to the Sviyaga, a small river in Simbirsk. A friend of his once told us the following story. Somebody told the boys to fish in a big, deep ditch nearby, where, he said, one could catch many carp. The boys followed his advice, but when Vladimir leant over the water, he suddenly slipped and fell into the ditch, and the mud began to pull him under. "Who knows what would have happened," his friend said, "if our cries for help had not been heard by a factory worker, who came running up and saved Vladimir. After that we were never allowed to go fishing even to the

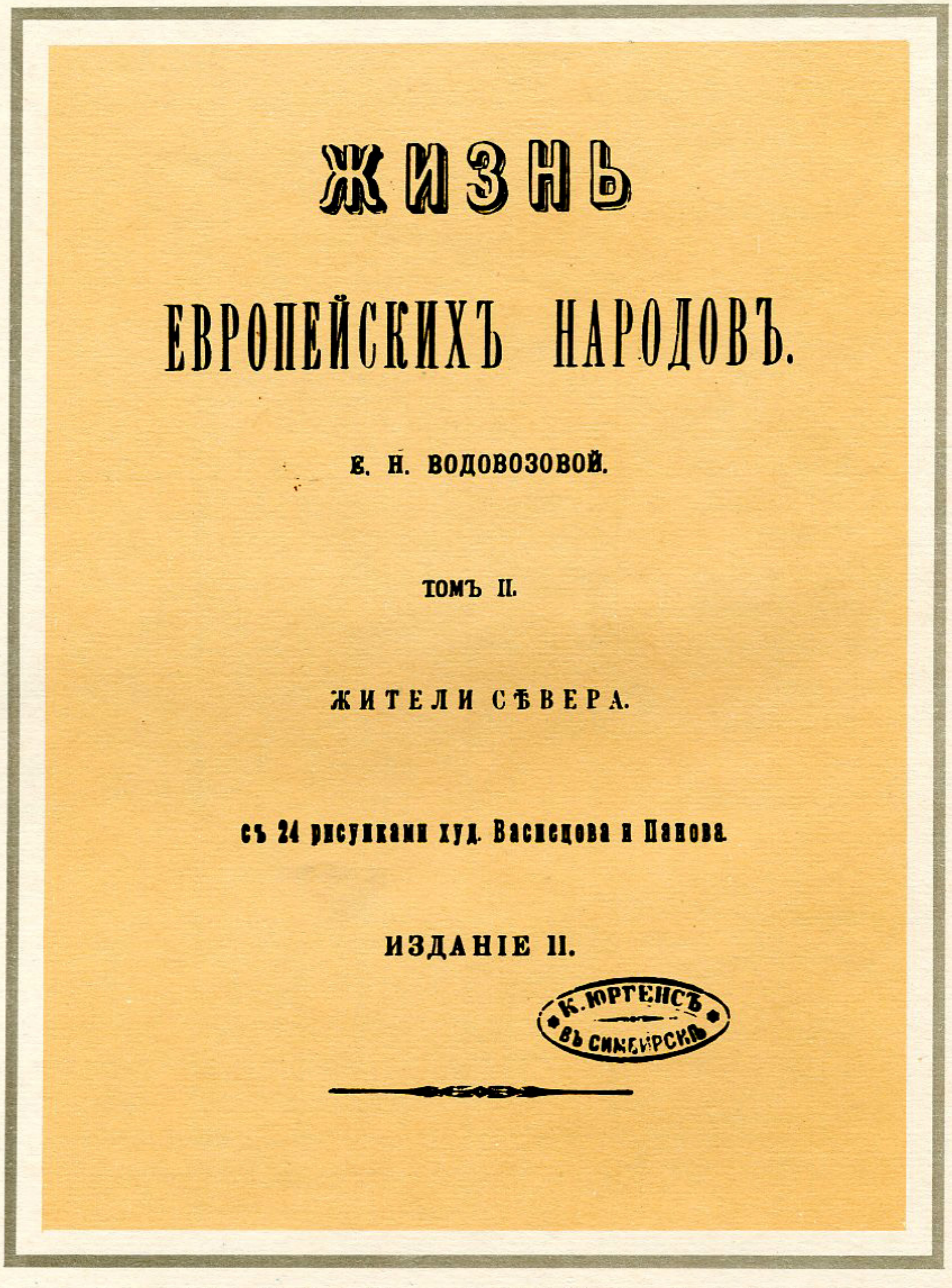


ученикъ „ IV- „ класса Ульяновъ Владимиръ

ПРЕДМЕТЫ УЧЕНІЯ.		Съ 16-го Августа по 16-е Октября.				Съ 16-го Октября по 20-е Декабря.				Съ 7-го Января по 16-е Марта.				Съ 16-го Марта по 16-е Іюня.				Отмѣтка годовая.	Отмѣтка по экзамену.	Средній выводъ.
		Успѣхи.	Вниманіе.	Прилежаніе.	Число проп. уроковъ.	Успѣхи.	Вниманіе.	Прилежаніе.	Число проп. уроковъ.	Успѣхи.	Вниманіе.	Прилежаніе.	Число проп. уроковъ.	Успѣхи.	Вниманіе.	Прилежаніе.	Число проп. уроковъ.			
Законъ Божій.	Священная Исторія.																			
	Ученіе о Богослуженіи.																			
	Катихизисъ.		5	5	„	5.	5	5	–	5	5	5	–		5	5	–		5	5.
	Церковная Исторія.																			
Русскій съ Славянскимъ языкомъ и словесность.		5	5	4	„		5	5	1.	5.	5	5	„	5	5	5		5	5 5	5
Логика.																				
Латинскій языкъ.			5	5	–	5.	5	5.	2.	5	5	5	„		5	5	·		/5	5.
Греческій языкъ.			5	5	„	5.	5	5	2.	5	5	5.	„		5	5	„		5.	5.
Математика.	Ариѳметика.																			
	Алгебра.	5	5	5	–	5	5	5	2	5	5	5	„	5	5	5	„	5	/5	5
	Геометрія.																		/5.	5.
	Тригонометрія.																			
Физика.																				
Математическая географія.																				
Исторія.			5	5	–	5	5	5	„	5	5	5	–		5	5	„	.	5	5.
Географія.			5	5	–	5.	5	5	1.	5	5	5	–		5	5	„		5.	5.
Нѣмецкій языкъ.			5	5	„		5	5	1	5	5	5	·		5	5	„		5. 5.	5.
Французскій языкъ.			5	5	„	5.	4	5	1.	5	4	5	–	5	5	5	·	5.	5/5	5.
Чистописаніе.																				
Средній выводъ.		5	5	5	„	5	5	5	10.	5	5	5	·	5	5	5	„			
Поведеніе.		5.				5				5.				5						
Исправность тетрадей.		5				5.				5.				5.						

Примѣчаніе: Переведен в V кл.

Vladimir Ulyanov's fourth year school report.



ЖИЗНЬ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКИХЪ НАРОДОВЪ.

Е. Н. ВОДОВОЗОВОЙ.

ТОМЪ II.

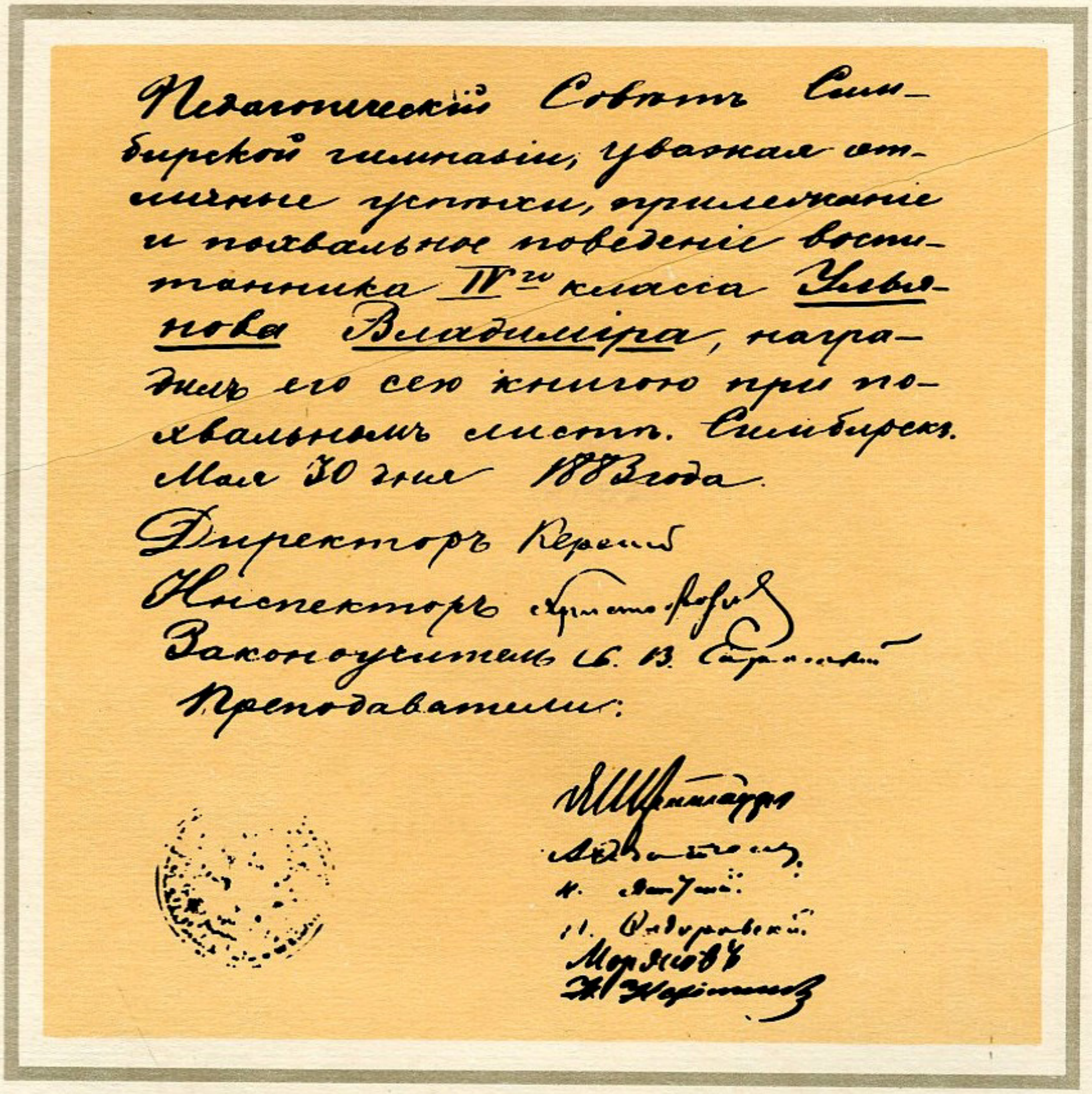
ЖИТЕЛИ СѢВЕРА.

съ 24 рисунками худ. Васнецова и Панова.

ИЗДАНІЕ II.

К. ЮРГЕНСЪ
ВЪ СИМБИРСКѢ

The book presented to Vladimir Ulyanov for his brilliant results in the fourth form.



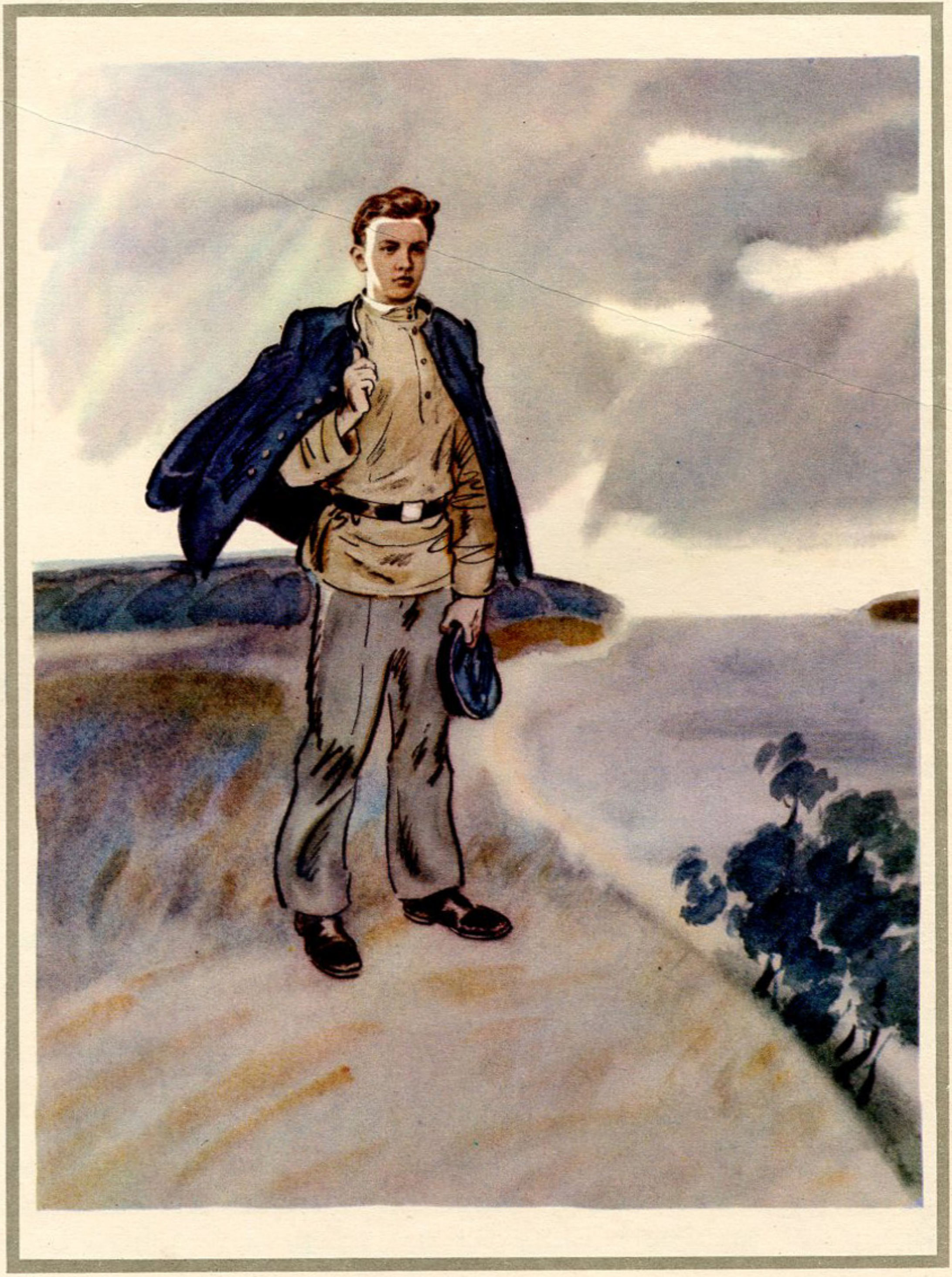
Педагогическій Совѣтъ Симбирской гимназіи, уважая отличные успѣхи, прилежаніе и похвальное поведеніе воспитанника IV-го класса Ульянова Владиміра, наградилъ его сею книгою при похвальномъ листѣ. Симбирскъ. Мая 30 дня 1883 года.

Директоръ Керенскій
Инспекторъ
Законоучитель
Преподаватели:

The inscription on the title page of the book "The Life of European Peoples" by E. Vodovozova.

Sviyaga."

But even though he went fishing and caught birds in his early years, Vladimir took little interest in these sports. He soon gave them up altogether. So when Alexander returned home for his summer holidays from



Vladimir Ulyanov **(drawing by N. Lyamin).**

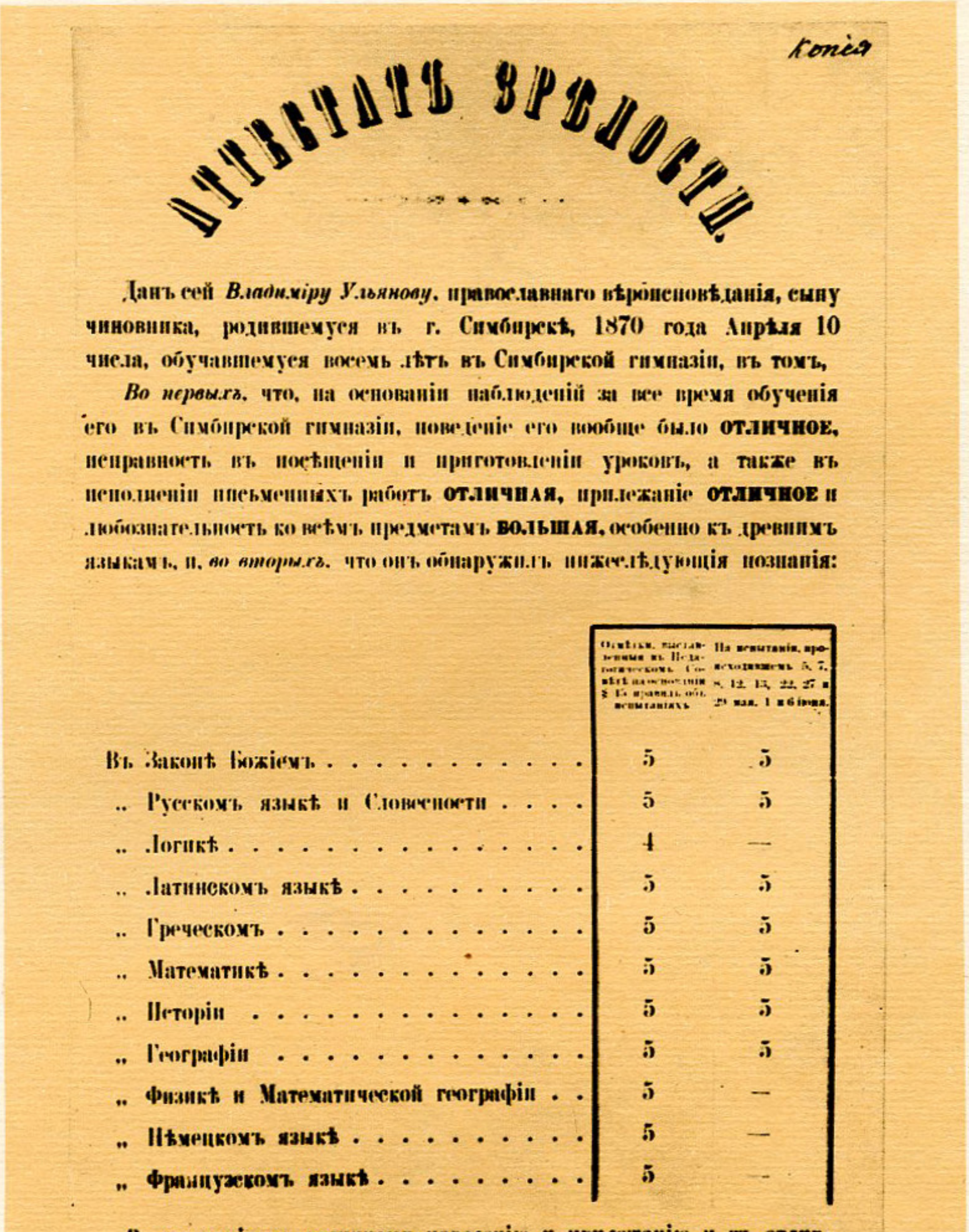
university, it was Dmitry this time who went with him on boat trips up and down the Sviyaga in search of worms and all sorts of river creatures. Alexander had been keen on natural sciences for many years and therefore entered the faculty of natural sciences. So even on his summer holidays he took every opportunity to continue his research and did quite a lot of it.

Vladimir, in contrast, found little pleasure in natural sciences. He liked Latin, classical literature, history and geography. He also enjoyed writing school essays and was very good at them. When preparing one, he used not only his textbooks and notes, but borrowed books from the local library, too. As a result, his essays were logical, deep and extremely readable. The headmaster of the school taught literature to the senior pupils. He was proud of Vladimir's successes, always praised him and gave him top marks.

Unlike most boys of his age, Vladimir did not enjoy craft. Though, he eagerly helped to make toys for the Chistmas tree; we all liked to decorate it with our own homemade toys. But apart from that, I don't remember him working at any craft—woodwork or anything else. Nor did he like wood-cutting, which was something his older brother did very well.

He spent most of his free time reading, sometimes chewing sunflower seeds as he did so, or just running around. He liked skating in winter and playing croquet or swimming in summer. As for the books he read, he did not like adventure stories but preferred reading Gogol and later, Turgenev whose books he would read over and over again.

He was on very good terms with his classmates. He used to advise them, correct their translations and essays and sometimes even wrote them for people who



копія

АТТЕСТАТЪ ЗРѢЛОСТИ.

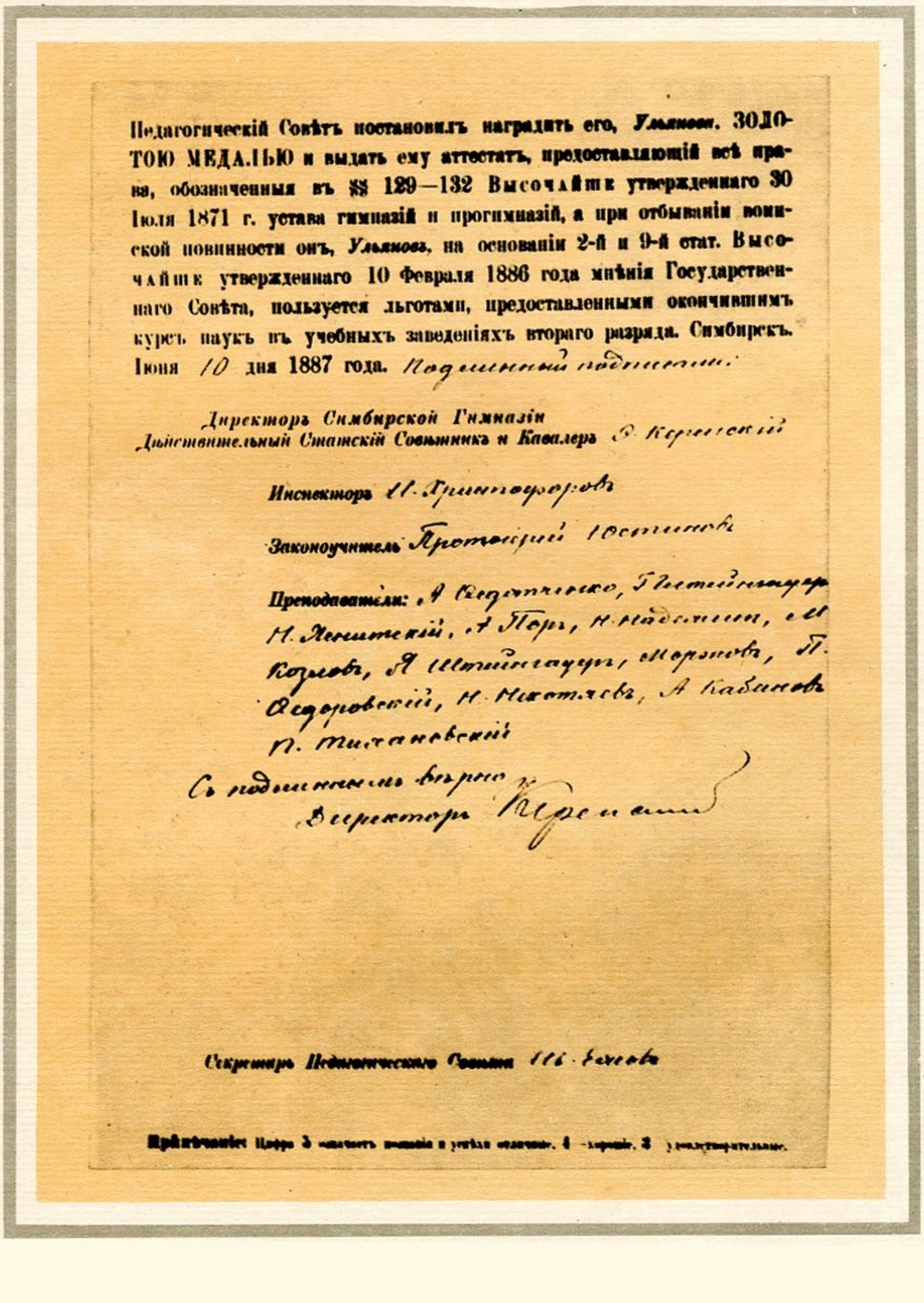
Данъ сей *Владиміру Ульянову*, православнаго вѣроисповѣданія, сыну чиновника, родившемуся въ г. Симбирскѣ, 1870 года Апрѣля 10 числа, обучавшемуся восемь лѣтъ въ Симбирской гимназіи, въ томъ,

Во первыхъ, что, на основаніи наблюденій за все время обученія его въ Симбирской гимназіи, поведеніе его вообще было **ОТЛИЧНОЕ**, исправность въ посѣщеніи и приготовленіи уроковъ, а также въ исполненіи письменныхъ работъ **ОТЛИЧНАЯ**, прилежаніе **ОТЛИЧНОЕ** и любознательность ко всѣмъ предметамъ **БОЛЬШАЯ**, особенно къ древнимъ языкамъ, и, *во вторыхъ*, что онъ обнаружилъ нижеслѣдующія познанія:

	Отмѣтки, выставленныя въ Педагогическомъ Совѣтѣ на основаніи § 15 правилъ объ испытаніяхъ	На испытаніи, происходившемъ 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 22, 27 и 29 мая, 1 и 6 іюня.
Въ Законѣ Божіемъ	5	5
„ Русскомъ языкѣ и Словесности	5	5
„ Логикѣ	4	—
„ Латинскомъ языкѣ	5	5
„ Греческомъ	5	5
„ Математикѣ	5	5
„ Исторіи	5	5
„ Географіи	5	5
„ Физикѣ и Математической географіи . .	5	—
„ Нѣмецкомъ языкѣ	5	—
„ Французскомъ языкѣ	5	—

Во вниманіе къ отличному поведенію и прилежанію и къ отличнымъ успѣхамъ въ наукахъ, въ особенности въ древнихъ языкахъ,

Vladimir Ulyanov's school leaving certificate received in 1887.



Педагогическій Совѣтъ постановилъ наградить его, *Ульянова*, ЗОЛОТОЮ МЕДАЛЬЮ и выдать ему аттестатъ, предоставляющій всѣ права, обозначенныя въ §§ 129—132 Высочайше утвержденнаго 30 Іюля 1871 г. устава гимназій и прогимназій, а при отбываніи воинской повинности онъ, *Ульяновъ*, на основаніи 2-й и 9-й стат. Высочайше утвержденнаго 10 Февраля 1886 года мнѣнія Государственнаго Совѣта, пользуется льготами, предоставленными окончившимъ курсъ наукъ въ учебныхъ заведеніяхъ втораго разряда. Симбирскъ. Іюня 10 дня 1887 года. Подлинный подписали:

Директоръ Симбирской Гимназіи
Дѣйствительный Статскій Совѣтникъ и Кавалеръ Ѳ. Керенскій

Инспекторъ И. Христофоровъ

Законоучитель Протоіерей Юстиновъ

Преподаватели: А. Ѳедотченко, Г. Штейнгауеръ, Н. Ясницкій, А. Поръ, Н. Надашкинъ, М. Козловъ, Я. Штейнгауеръ, Морозовъ, П. Ѳедоровскій, Н. Никотаевъ, А. Кабановъ, П. Мищаневскій

Съ подлиннымъ вѣрно
Директоръ Керенскій

Секретарь Педагогическаго Совѣта Ш. Ечховъ

Примѣчаніе: Цифра 5 означаетъ познанія и успѣхи отличные, 4 — хорошіе, 3 удовлетворительные.

found such tasks difficult. He told me once that he had helped his friend to get a high mark, without the teacher even suspecting that anyone, least of all Vladimir, had helped the other boy. He explained some difficult things to his friends during break-times or, like Alexander, came to the school half an hour earlier in order to help them with a difficult theorem or with a Greek or Latin translation. So he was the prop of the whole class, and his successes encouraged other pupils.

Vladimir Ulyanov's desk in the seventh form.

Chapter 6

In those first few years at Simbirsk our family moved from place to place until Father bought a wooden house on Moskovskaya street. This house is now the Lenin Memorial Museum, and inside it looks just as it did when Lenin was a boy.

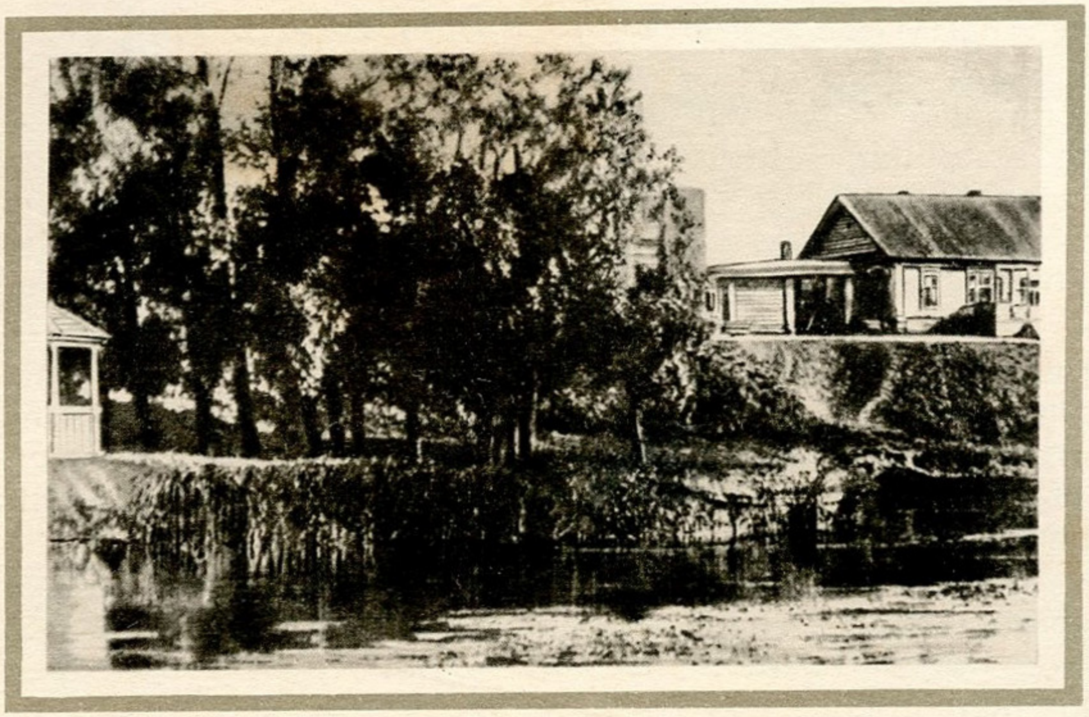
It was a one-storeyed house with an attic where the children slept. Vladimir's room was next to Alexander's in one wing of the house, while I shared a room with the three younger children in the other wing. Each wing had its own staircase. We moved into that house when Vladimir was eight, and so, during his first five years at school, he was able to form a close relationship with his older brother. Vladimir was a frequent guest in his room. He watched his biological experiments, borrowed books from him or simply asked his advice on whatever problems he had.

Behind the house was a large green lawn with a see-saw for the children, and a big orchard facing Pokrovskaya street. Only a small part of the orchard has survived to this day. The rest is occupied by a stone building, also overlooking Pokrovskaya street. There was a wicket-gate in the garden fence. We passed though it on our way to the skating-rink in winter or to the bath-house on the Sviyaga in summer. Our family rented a private bath-house for an hour in the morning and an hour in the evening, and Mother with the girls and Father with the boys took turns in bathing twice a day. I remember the two halves of our large family meeting halfway while going to and from the river—somewhere on the green sloping path along Pokrovskaya street.

The orchard mainly consisted of fruit trees and shrubs. There was also a pretty flower garden. Mother enjoyed gardening, so she took charge of all that. She hired workers for the most difficult spring and autumn work but that was all. We managed quite well by ourselves, and we all helped as best as we could.

I remember summer evenings following hot rainless days when we, children, would draw water from the well and trip back and forth with buckets, watering-cans, jugs and all sorts of vessels. Vladimir usually reached the well first with an empty watering-can.

As for apples and berries, we ate them as much as we liked. But there was a certain order here as well. That is, when the apples were ripening, we were only allowed to eat those that had been blown down; on no account were we to pick apples from the trees. Then,



Nineteenth century Simbirsk. The bank of the river Sviyaga.

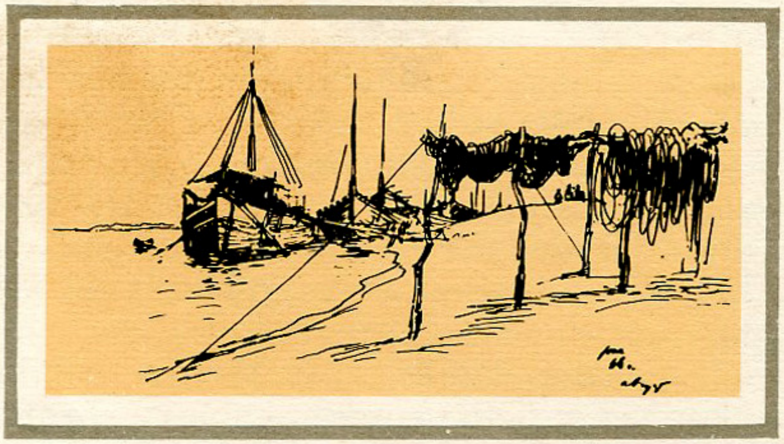
later in the season, when the apples were at their best, we also followed a certain rule. The first to go were the fast-ripening sorts which could not be stored for the winter, while all the rest were meant for apple jam and winter storage. So we had enough apples to last us through the autumn and all winter too.

I remember we, children, were indignant when a girl who was visiting our house tried to show off her acrobatic skills and dared to bite an apple during a running jump. Then she ran on, as happy as ever. It seemed rather silly.

We had a similar order for berries. Mother would show us several strawberry beds, some raspberry shrubs or cherry-trees. We were allowed to pick fruit from these to eat. The rest went for jam and preserves. I remember once that our guests were surprised to see three slender cherry-trees covered with ripe cherries near the summer house where we had tea during the summer. We never touched them until the 20th of July (our father's name-day).

"The children may pick cherries from other trees in the orchard, but these ones are meant for a special day," Mother explained. Mother had a gift for keeping order without restricting us or making us feel uneasy. That gift undoubtedly played a part in moulding our characters and personalities.

Thus, the thriftiness and self-discipline which characterised Lenin's entire life and which he demanded from all party-members and Soviet leaders, had been instilled in him way back in his childhood.

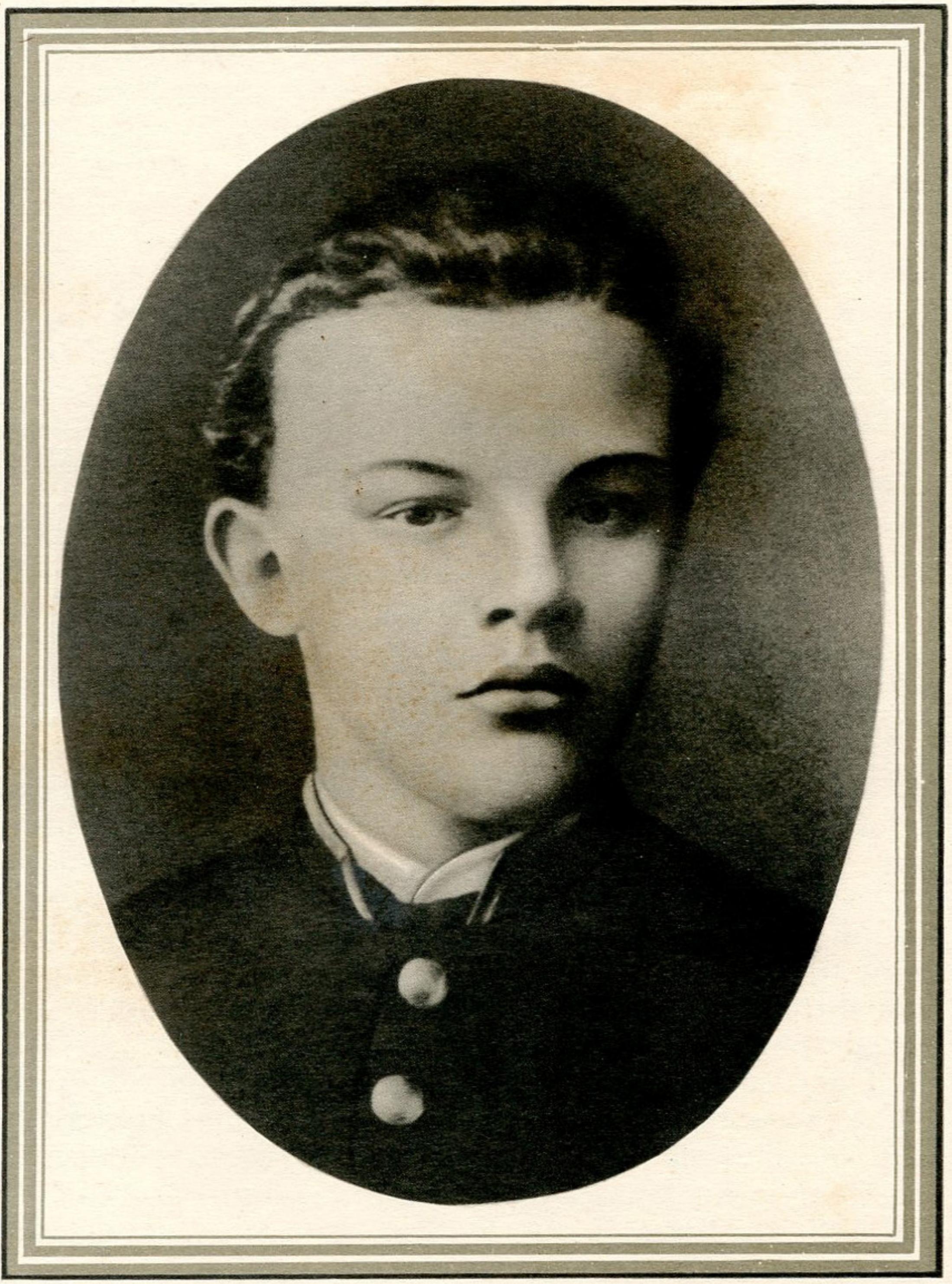


On the Volga
(by N. Zhukov).

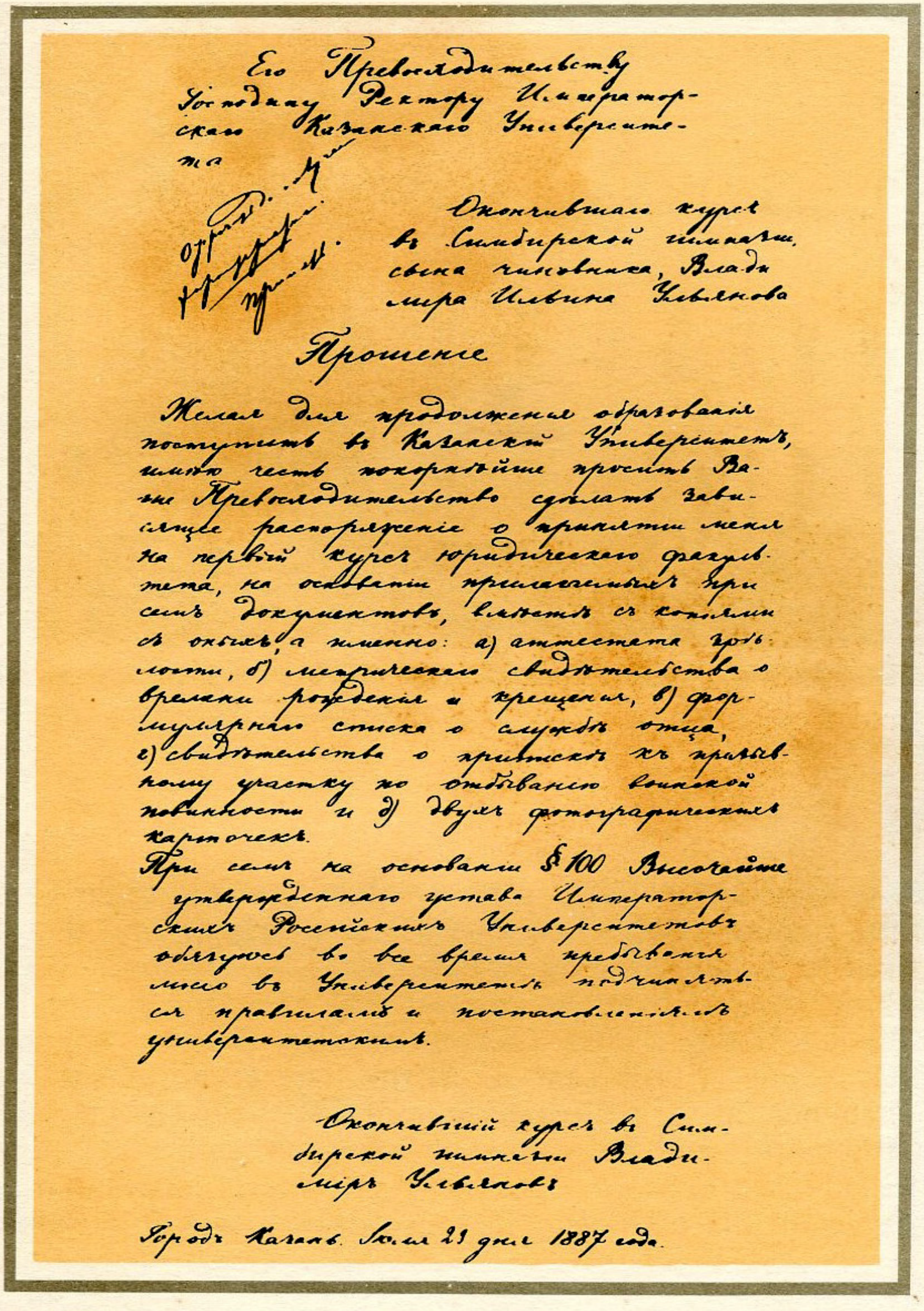
Chapter 7

In 1886, when Vladimir was approaching his sixteenth birthday,tragedy struck our family. Our father died suddenly on the 12th of January. Alexander was in St. Petersburg then, so Vladimir as the 'man' of the family became our mother's right hand from that day on. Despite his youth he was extremely thoughtful and considerate towards Mother and shared all her new worries and chores.

I stayed longer than usual that winter in Simbirsk. Father's death occurred during my Christmas holidays. I had to do an elementary Latin course for my college, so Vladimir, who was good at Latin, volunteered to help me with it. I recall our lively, interesting lessons, his



Vladimir Ulyanov in his final year at high school.



Его Превосходительству
Господину Ректору Императорскаго Казанскаго Университета

[illegible]

Окончившаго курсъ въ Симбирской гимназіи, сына чиновника, Владиміра Ильина Ульянова

Прошеніе

Желая для продолженія образованія поступить въ Казанскій Университетъ, имѣю честь покорнѣйше просить Ваше Превосходительство сдѣлать зависящее распоряженіе о принятіи меня на первый курсъ юридическаго факультета, на основаніи приложенныхъ при семъ документовъ, вмѣстѣ съ копіями съ оныхъ, а именно: а) аттестата зрѣлости, б) метрическаго свидѣтельства о времени рожденія и крещенія, в) формулярнаго списка о службѣ отца, г) свидѣтельства о припискѣ къ призывному участку по отбыванію воинской повинности и д) двухъ фотографическихъ карточекъ.

При семъ на основаніи § 100 Высочайше утвержденнаго устава Императорскихъ Россійскихъ Университетовъ обязуюсь во все время пребыванія моего въ Университетѣ подчиняться правиламъ и постановленіямъ университетскимъ.

Окончившій курсъ въ Симбирской гимназіи Владиміръ Ульяновъ

Городъ Казань. Іюля 29 дня 1887 года.

Vladimir Ulyanov's application to Kazan university.

Nineteenth century Simbirsk. The Karamzin Public Library where Vladimir Ulyanov studied.

clear explanations. He told me then that the eight-year Latin course at high school was far too long, and that it could be easily covered in two years, if only the pupil is willing. And indeed, he proved that by helping a young Chuvash man, called Okhotnikov, to prepare for his final exams at high school. At the time Okhotnikov was a teacher at a Chuvash school. He had a gift for mathematics and he wanted to receive higher education. He had worked through the high school mathematics course on his own. But in those days it was impossible

The Simbirsk Drama Theatre (before the reconstruction) to which Vladimir Ulyanov often went.

to enter university without first finishing high school or at least passing the final exams in all high school subjects. These included Latin and Greek.

It was not easy for the Chuvash who did not know Russian well enough. To make matters worse, he was not good at languages, and, in fact, the humanities were obviously not his best. Nevertheless, Vladimir began to help him. Okhotnikov had been recommended to him by Mr. Yakovlev, a close friend of our family and the Chuvash school inspector. The preparations took about eighteen months. Vladimir was then in the upper form, so he and Okhotnikov passed the school leaving exams in the same year. Later Okhotnikov entered university. Vladimir did not charge Okhotnikov anything for the lessons.

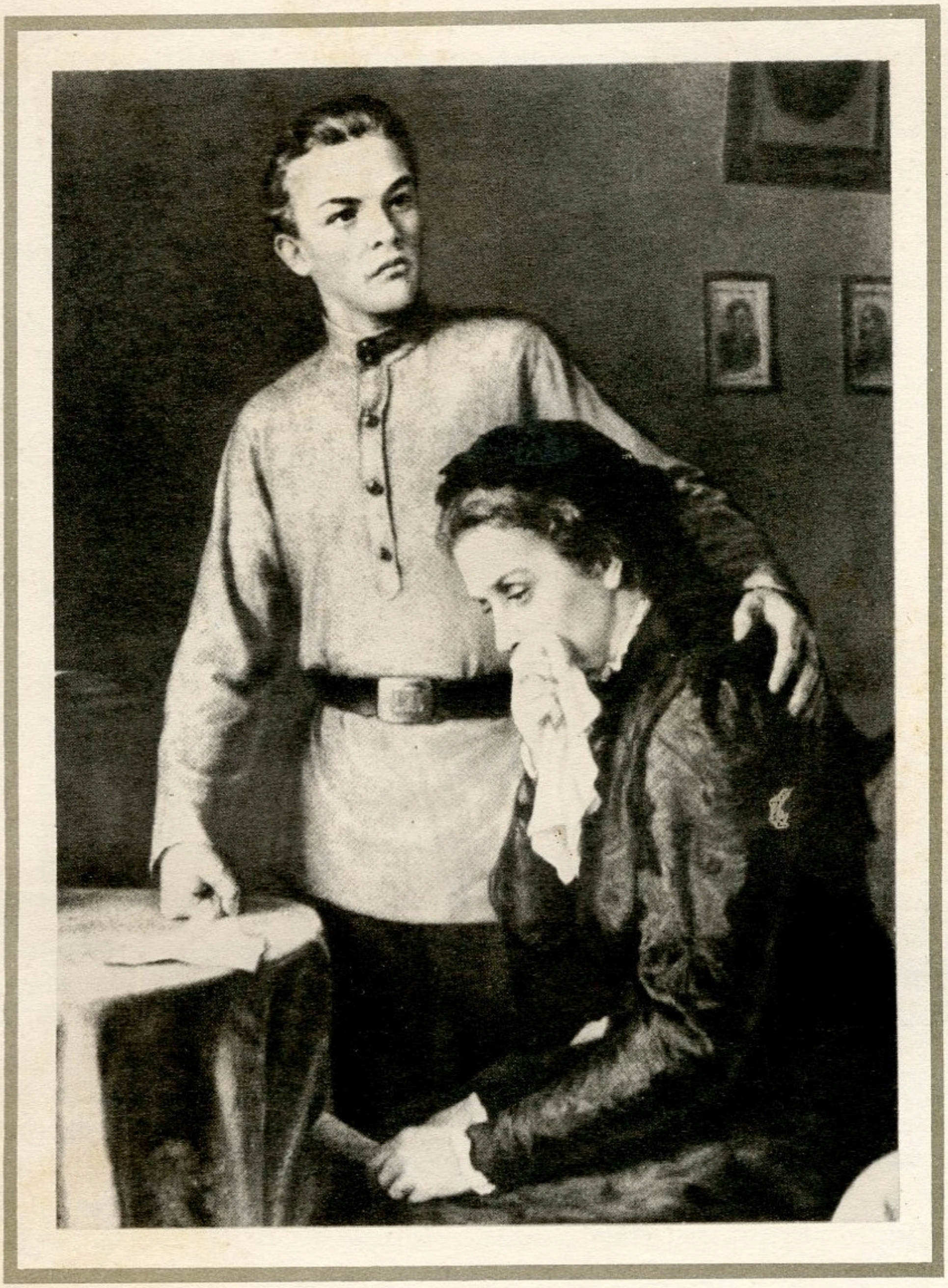
In 1887, when Vladimir was in the upper form, another heavy blow hit our family. Alexander was arrested in St. Petersburg for participating in an attempt to assassinate the tsar.

Vladimir was the first to hear the sad news and had to prepare Mother for it. This is how it happened. A relative of ours wrote to the schoolmistress Kashkadamova, telling her that Alexander and I had been arrested. She asked the schoolmistress to break the news gently to our mother. In her memoirs Kashkadamova wrote, "I sent for Vladimir and gave him the letter to read. He frowned and did not speak for a long time. I no longer saw a happy, carefree boy before me; he had suddenly become a man. 'That's serious,' he said. 'It could end very badly for Alexander.'"

And indeed, it did. Alexander was put on trial as one of the ringleaders and condemned to death. He was executed on March 8, 1887.

Vladimir took the disaster courageously. He went on with his studies but became even more serious and did not feel much like talking. He often thought of his older brother, trying to decide whether Alexander had been right, fighting as he did. And he said to me once, "We shall take quite a different course."

The headmaster of the Simbirsk high school was severely reprimanded for having granted a brilliant school leaving certificate and a gold medal to 'such an outrageous criminal' as Alexander Ulyanov. There was even talk of depriving his younger brother of a gold



"We shall take quite a different course" **(by P. Belousov).**

medal, but Vladimir had been such an outstanding pupil throughout the whole eight-year course, and his answers in the final exams were so brilliant that there could be no question of withholding an award from him. The same thing happened to Olga when she was finishing the girls' school.

So Vladimir received his gold medal in the end and entered the law faculty of Kazan university.

Our mother had by then sold some property and the Simbirsk house and moved with her younger children to Kazan.

ПРЕУСПѢВАЮЩЕМУ

Such a gold medal was awarded to Vladimir Ulyanov upon leaving the Simbirsk high school in 1887.

University life was difficult enough at that time. But it became even more difficult after the assassination attempt of March 1, 1887; the attempt had been organised and carried out by students. Many of the university inspectors were replaced with police spies, all student organisations and societies were banned, and

Lenin, as a high school pupil (the munument in Privokzalnaya square, Ulyanovsk).

many students were arrested or expelled from the universities.

This brought angry protests from students all over Russia. Kazan university was no exception.

Vladimir also took part in a protest meeting. Along

The Lenin Memorial Museum in Ulyanovsk.

with many other students he was expelled and banished from Kazan. His first exile was spent in Kokushkino, a village near the town. That seemed to be the end of his student career, for all Russian universities were closed to him from then on.

He applied to the university authorities to be reinstated as a student but was rejected mainly because he was a brother of the 'criminal' Alexander Ulyanov.

So, at the age of seventeen, his schooling came to an abrupt end. But he was such a gifted, hard-working youth that he managed to work through the whole university course by himself. Finally he was allowed to take the graduation exams at the law faculty. As it happened, he passed them successfully in the same year as the students from his old group at university. It was as if he had never been expelled at all.

I remember that it came as a great surprise to everyone who knew him, for despite all his problems he hadn't lost a single year but finished the whole course in

The Grand Hall in the Lenin Memorial Museum. The Pioneers' Admittance ceremony.

two years instead of the usual four.

The diploma he received after the graduation exams gave him a profession (he started as a barrister's assistant). This meant that he could earn his own living and even support his family which until then had been living only on Mother's meagre pension and on the small savings our father had left.

It was during those years spent first in Kazan and then in Samara that he gradually grew into a true revolutionary who was not afraid of any difficulties and who was ready to devote his life to the struggle for a better life of all working people.

He was a keen reader of the works by Marx and Engels. Marx and Engels showed that capitalists all over the world had become rich at the expense of the workers, while the landlords had become wealthy at the expense of the peasants. They said there was only one way to end such injustice. The workers must unite and, together with all working people, overthrow the capitalists and landowners, take power into their own hands, and begin building a new and happy life, with plenty for everyone.

In some countries at that time there were many factories and plants where the workers, united by the same work and common miseries, had already begun to fight for their rights. In Russia, however, there were few factories and plants then, and most of the workers were backward and ignorant. In addition, the tsar and his officials helped the Russian capitalists and landowners to keep the workers and peasants under control. Lenin came to realise that Russia had to take the road shown by Marx and Engels. He helped the factory workers to join forces, and did much to organise the vanguard of the working people, the Communist party.

The Russian workers and peasants led by the Bolsheviks, or Communist party, fought for liberation for many years until at last, in 1917, they took power into their own hands and began building a happy and joyful life.

The name of Vladimir Lenin is dear to the hearts of millions of working people all over the world. He will be remembered always.

Anna Ulyanova

THE CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL YEARS
OF VLADIMIR ULYANOV

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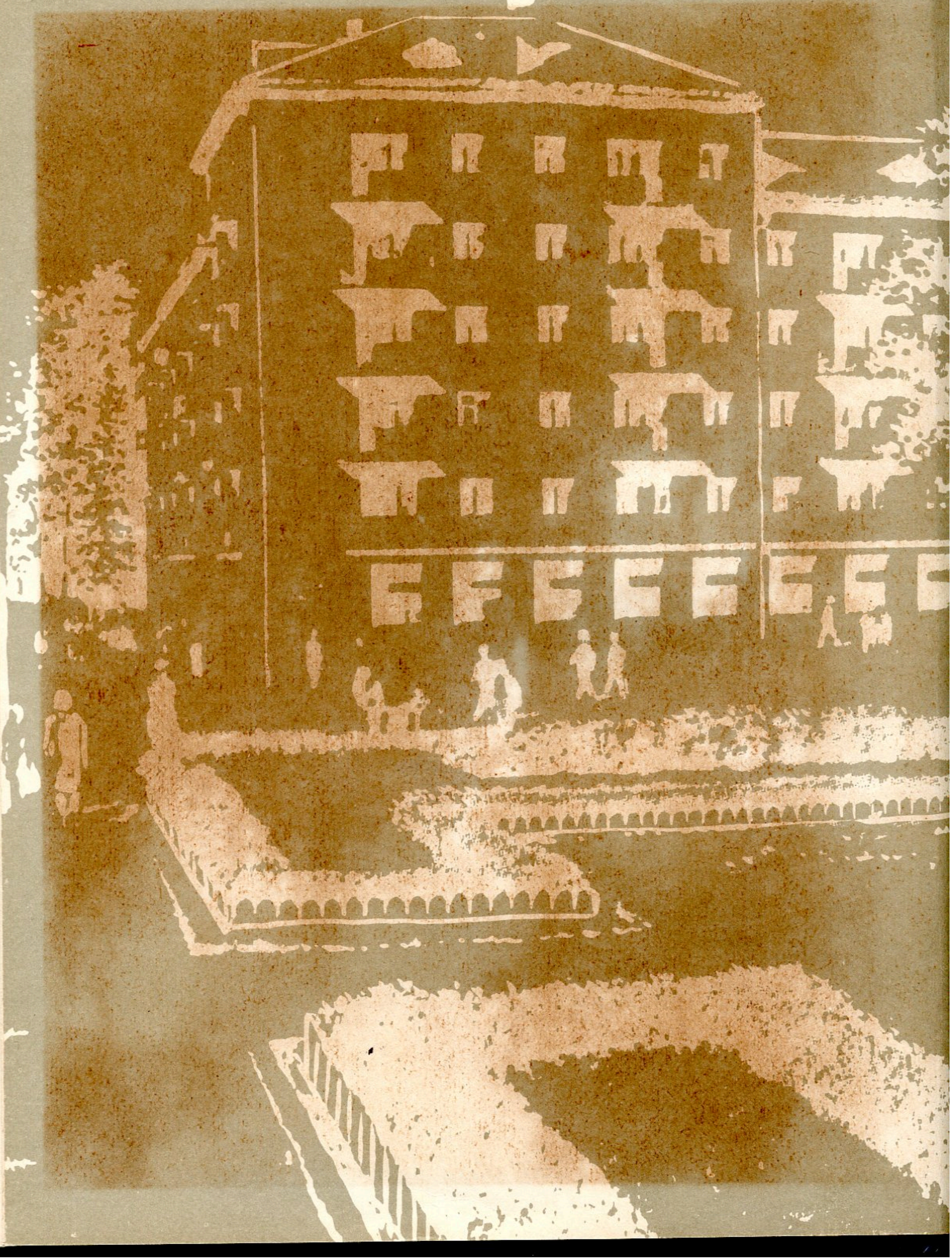

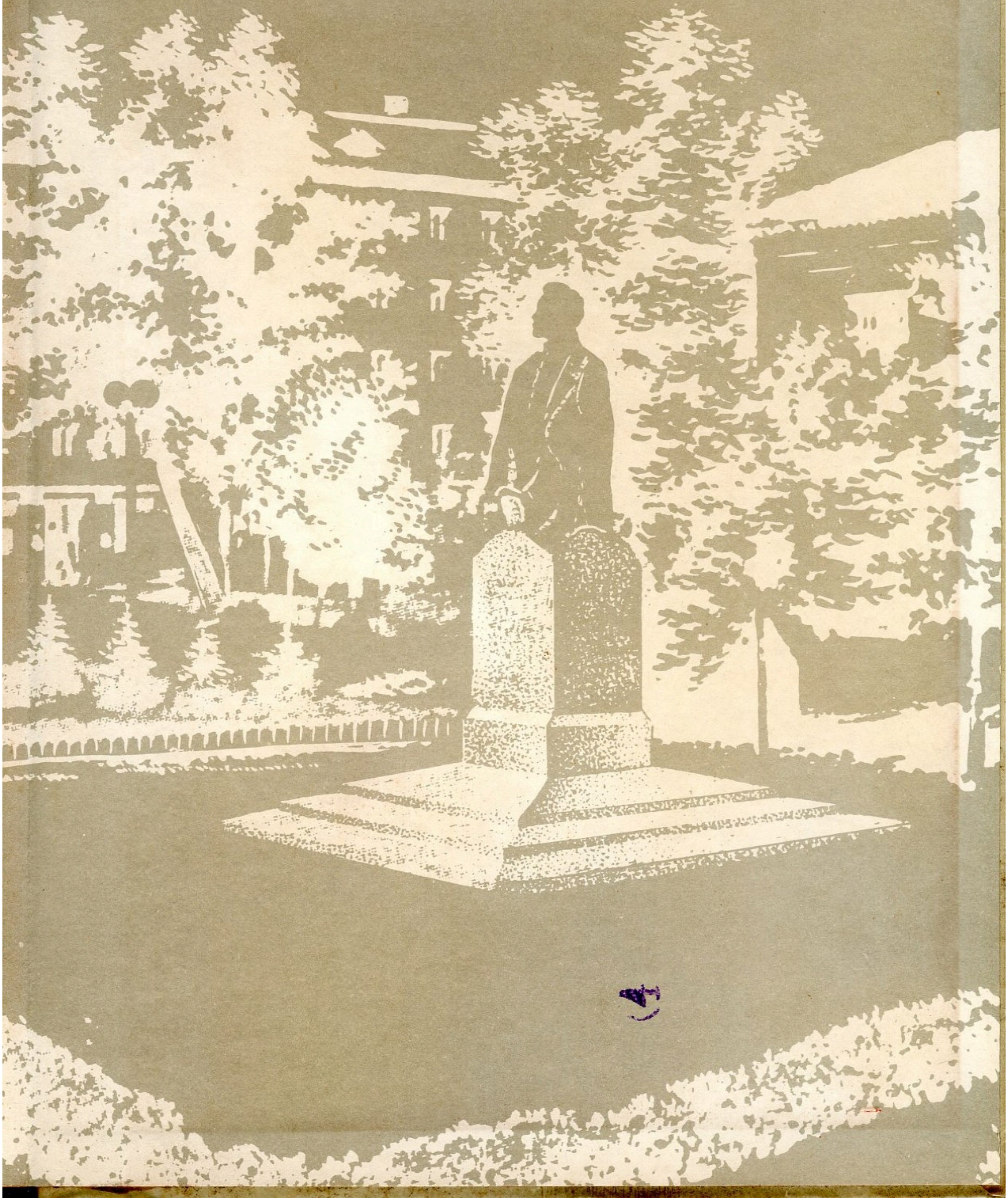

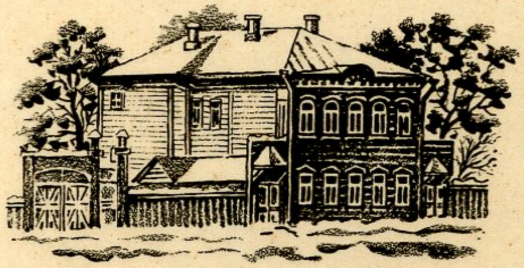

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